Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Arabia Officially Approves Summit Location

JN0905113690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1113 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Tunis, 9 May (INA)—The Arab League general secretariat has received the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's official approval of holding the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to discuss the Zionist threats to Iraq and the dangers posed by the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

A responsible source at the Arab League general secretariat stressed to the INA correspondent in Tunis today that the official approvals of other Arab states are expected to be received within the next few days.

The number of Arab states that have informed the Arab League general secretariat officially of their approval of the summit has reached 16. These are Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Djibouti, Lebanon, Mauritania, Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, and Iraq.

The state of Palestine has requested that an extraordinary Arab summit be convened to discuss the current situation in the Middle East.

AL-Asad To Mediate Between Cairo, Tehran

TA0905141990 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 May 90 p 2

["Exclusive" AL-QUDS correspondent's report]

[Text] Cairo—Informed sources in Cairo have said that, during the Damascus summit last week, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad proposed to President Husni Mubarak that Syria play a role in clearing the air between Egypt and Iran as a prelude to the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the arrangement of meetings between Egyptian and Iranian officials in Damascus.

The sources stated that President Husni Mubarak informed President Hafiz al-Asad that a change in Egypt's position is linked to an Iranian declaration on settling the problem of Egyptian prisoners held by Iran, to freeing these prisoners, and to reaching a final and peaceful settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict by implementing the articles of Security Council Resolution 598.

These sources also pointed out that this topic will be reviewed during President Hafiz al-Asad's upcoming visit to Egypt at the end of June and in the contacts that he will hold with Iranian officials. It is expected that Iran will announce the release of a new batch of its Egyptian prisoners before the Syrian president's visit to Egypt.

Meanwhile, a high-level Iranian delegation is to participate in the conference of Islamic countries' information ministers that will be held in Cairo in June. Iran has agreed to take part in the conference and has conveyed its acceptance to the secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Nidal Movement Asks To Leave Algeria

JN1005110590 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 10 May 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Algiers—The Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] movement has addressed an important message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid asking him to intervene to stop actions against the movement in Algeria. The message, which was sent by Munsif Hamdan, official spokesman for Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, also demanded the following:

1. The release of Hisham S.qr, the movement's deputy representative in Algiers.

2. Allowing the movement's representative in Algiers to dissolve the movement's offices in Algeria and remove their equipment.

3. Allowing the movement's members in Algeria to leave the country without being harassed or detained.

4. Closing the movement's headquarters in Algeria.

The movement also asked the Algerian president to intervene to stop the conspiracy directed primarily against Algeria and against the Palestine cause, and to work to prevent any bloodshed.

Yasir 'Arafat's Monthly Message to Palestinians

JN1005060490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 90

["Full Text" of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "monthly message" to "the masses of our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland" marking the 30th month of the intifadah, on 9 May; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And slacken not in pursuing the enemy. If you are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships, but you have hope from God, while they have none. And God is full of knowledge and wisdom. [Koranic verse] And it was our duty to aid those who believed. [part of a Koranic verse]

O sons of our struggling people inside and outside the occupied homeland; O masses of the blessed popular intifadah; O makers of the epic of resistance, confrontation, and victory; O strugglers of our revolutionary people in the villages, cities, and camps of Palestine; O steadfast defenders of our dreams and rights in the exile and Diaspora: With the same spirit, the spirit of determination and stubborn steadfastness; with the same

vigor in escalating resistance; and with the same determination and noble pride, you continue to write the most shining pages of our people's history and nation and create the most splendid epics of resistance in today's world with your talent and vigor.

O valiant and heroic men, women, and children of the intifadah: Each day, you prove the failure of the Israeli enemy, which imagines, in vain, that it can uproot and liquidate the revolution of our people and crush our intifadah. You, in fact, were able to create a division in the top ranks of the criminal occupation body. With your victorious intifadah, stubborn will, and great faith you rocked the pillars of this political establishment after shaking the pillars of its military establishment. Our people are making unlimited sacrifices for Palestine, its holy shrines, and its pure land. You are reaffirming to the entire world that our Palestinian people are determined to continue this revolution until victory is achieved, and this intifadah until the state is established. Our people are not defending themselves only, but the whole Arab people, in this front line trench in Palestine. This trench was built by the firm unity of all our people's forces under the banner of your organization, the PLO, which is armed with a political program endorsed by our Palestine National Council. This unity is impregnable to the enemy, deeply rooted in our people and masses, strong, and immersed in faith.

The occupying enemy has resorted, in recent weeks, to further fascist escalation of its practices against our masses in an attempt to cover up its political crisis. The enemy has intensified its crimes against our holy shrines, our people, our children, and our women in its hideous aggression against St. John's Hospice, against the Greek Orthodox patriarch, and against the masses of holy Jerusalem—both Christians and Muslims. They have perpetrated massacres in Jabaliyah, Qabatiyah, and Bayt Furik, and attacked and besieged Nabulus, Khan Yunus, Tulkarm, Janin, Qalqilyah, Rafah, Bayt Hanun, Hebron, and Jericho. Their crimes against the camps and villages have not stopped for one minute. They believe that opening new detention camps or the fall of more martyrs and wounded will weaken this revolution. They do not know that in this land is a people of exceeding strength. [part of a Koranic verse] Their aggression and crimes will make our people stronger and more powerful. In this land is a people of exceeding strength.

Brothers, beloved ones: As the Israeli enemy becomes more arrogant and intransigent in face of our people, rebels, and mujahidin, the balance of power in our region has been reinforced in favor of our nation, revolution, and cause. If the blessed intifadah has opened new horizons for the Arabs with its firmness, strength, and renewed sacrifice, Iraqi military steadfastness—through Iraq's scientific progress and political and military strength—has inaugurated this future and a new age for our nation and region. With the intifadah on the one hand, and the advanced, steadfast Iraqi deterrent on the other, two factors were created to shape the new era and the new age.

Starting from this point, we have acted to shape the features of the new stage, its priorities, and objectives. And on this was based our early call and initiatives for holding an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to face the grave dangers posed by Jewish emigration to our country, which threatens not only Palestine but also pan-Arab security in general. Add to that the aggressive agitation and continual threats against Iraq and other Arab countries. Proceeding from this precise understanding of the gravity and importance of these circumstances, our brothers the leaders of the Arab states have responded quickly to the convocation of this conference in support of Iraq and the intifadah. At the same time, however, we want the summit to herald the birth of a new Arab era by putting an end to division and fragmentation; by joining and focusing our Arab nation's capabilities and energies to defend its dignity, existence, and future; and by devoting our Arab nation's constant principles to the service of the Palestinian woman and child, and to our mujahidin who is fighting the enemy day and night with his flesh and blood. The summit, moreover, coincides with increasing international support for our cause and political program, especially since it has been proved to the world that the political decision makers in the Zionist entity are unanimous in rejecting peace and are determined to cling to the option of aggression under various pretexts, excuses, and reasons, and by using every means available.

Nay, the valiant intifadah of our people continues to advance and to make a clear impact on the conscience of all mankind and on the map of international political decisionmaking. It is leading us toward seizing our national inalienable rights to freedom, repatriation, and national independence.

O masses of our militant people! O defenders of the homeland and guardians of the shackled dream! The past has proved our people's complete readiness for unlimited selflessness and great sacrifice. Our people have even showed skill, discipline, and ability in inventing various new forms of resistance and action in our valiant intifadah despite all the practices of repression, persecution, and crimes invented by the enemy recently in their vain efforts to crush your will and paralyze your resolve. So lose not heart, nor fall into despair; for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. Such days of varying fortunes we give to men and men in turn. [Koranic verses]

In this regard, brothers, we know that the enemy will intensify its plots, crimes, and attempts to sow sedition everywhere. We should be aware of this, especially in dealing with those who have gone astray so as to prevent exploitation by the occupiers. We should allow collaborators a period of time for repentance after exhausting all efforts to persuade them. We should take strict care not to implement any decision without the approval of the leadership at the three levels: local, regional, and by the Unified National Leadership. Let us show further care and vigilance. Let us overcome our frivolous differences.

No voice shall rise above the voice of the intifadah. Let us all be as one man, for one objective, and with one will. In this regard, I particularly urge my kinfolk and friends in Tannun, Bayt Rima, 'Awarta, al-Qibyah, and 'Arabunah to rise above their differences and show tolerance in order to maintain the intifadah and the revolution of our people. In this regard, I appeal to the good offices committees to act at every level to resolve problems and to consolidate the values of the revolution to achieve clear victory, God willing. Truly God loves those who fight in His cause in battle array, as if they were a solid, cemented structure. [Koranic verse]

Let us show further discipline and commitment, my kinfolk and beloved ones. Let us all be as one hand and one rank in confronting the enemy. Brothers, let us intensify unity action within the specialized organizations and popular committees. Let all factions, forces, popular leaders, and national figures be welded within these organizations and committees. Let us present a revolutionary, creative model for our masses. These organizations and committees belong to the masses and are for the masses. They are the property of the intifadah and are for the intifadah. Let this be our guide in the cities, villages, and camps. Let all these organizations and committees be founded on the broad basis of our solid unity—Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, the Arab Liberation Front, the Jihad Organization, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and all popular forces of our people and cadres with their various components—students and laborers, farmers and landlords, merchants and craftsmen, academicians and professionals, men and women, children and old men. Let us all participate in the battle and crucible of the revolution.

Brothers, beloved and steadfast ones in all positions of the revolution: Let souls embrace each other and let their efforts be closely joined with those of the steadfast and resisting RPG [rocket propelled grenade] cubs, who are standing proudly alongside their struggling brothers in southern Lebanon, and with the children and heroic, struggling masses of the sacred stones so that together they make a unified fabric representing the epic of the Palestinian revolution. This revolution has proven by its duration and trials that it is impregnable to the enemy, gigantic in confronting adversaries, and triumphant on the path of victory. It is backed by Iraqi power in particular and by Arabs and friends all over the world in general. Let everyone know that this revolution has come to stay and to win. It did not come into being by anyone's decision, so it can not be shaken by a decision by any parliament anywhere or be weakened by any escalation against it.

Let the U.S. Congress know that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine, whether they like it or not and in spite of their resolutions and documents. Let them know that this revolution will continue to grow despite all plots, despite all crimes, and despite the American-Israeli war machine that is being used daily against our people, including internationally banned chemical weapons used by the Israeli Army and armed settlers. Let them know that there is no peace but the Palestinian peace and no solution but the Arab solution and that one of my country's children will hoist the flag of Palestine over the walls of Jerusalem, the churches of Jerusalem, and the minarets of Jerusalem. They see that day in the distant future, but we see it quite near, and we tell the truth.

O masses of our people, O cavaliers of the brave intifadah, our heroes in Israeli prisons and detention camps, our brave wounded, O hero mujahidin: Let us continue and escalate our blessed popular intifadah through the masses' participation by staging processions, demonstrations, and sit-ins in which all take an active part to defend our holy places. Let our banner flutter in the sky of the homeland and let our anthem, the anthem of freedom and independence, resound. Let us continue the march, making a pledge to God, the homeland, and our righteous martyrs that we will do so. A pledge is a pledge and an oath is an oath. We are together and side by side until the banner of Palestine, the banner of the Arab nation is raised over Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine. It is intifadah until the state is established and steadfastness until victory.

In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. That even the apostle and those with him cried: "When will come the help of God?" Ah! Verily, the help of God is always near. On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom He will, and He is exalted in might, most merciful. [Koranic verses] Revolution until victory.

Your brother, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

Al-Hasan Views U.S. Relations, Criticizes Hamas

JN0905204390 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 May 90 p 4

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat, by Mazin Sahib in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Sahib] What is new in your relations with the current U.S. Administration?

[Al-Hasan] So far, the only significant thing about U.S.-Palestinian relations is that they continue to exist. However, you cannot talk of an important achievement. In fact, Mr. Baker is being tested now. If Israel defies the United States in the political process and the United States keeps silent, then America's credibility in the region will be open to question. [passage omitted]

[Sahib] What are your expectations about the formation of a new Israeli government?

[Al-Hasan] It has been proved that the fascist right wing has the authority and a majority in Israel. We expect one of two possibilities: either the formation of a narrow-based government under Shamir or a return to the coalition government formula. Shamir is trying now to divide the

Labor Party and he is prepared to form a coalition with Rabin. Rabin is conspiring with Shamir against Peres in order to become the head of the Labor Party.

It has been proved that the Israeli political structure is worn out and can be bought with money, and that it changes its policies with money. The world is watching how the Agudat Yisra'el and the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] movement are being bought and how the Palestinians are being slaughtered daily. Consequently, the importance of an Arab summit stems from the fact that we should return to a policy of restoring Israel to its proper limits, because it is beating the drums of war. Therefore, we should resume talking about preparing for a war.

[Sahib] Is there an intention to revive fedayeen operations?

[Al-Hasan] Without the slightest doubt. Under a new Arab concept [tasawwur], the Palestinian will have an important role in military confrontations that conform with the UN Charter.

[Sahib] The question of Hamas' [the Islamic Resistance Movement] membership in the Palestine National Council [PNC] was raised recently. This is a controversial issue. What is going on inside the Palestinian house?

[Al-Hasan] I want to say something positive and something negative about Hamas. The positive thing is that Hamas is viewed by the PLO with respect as a part of the Palestinian people. The religious values it upholds constitute an important psychological defense for the Palestinian people against the Zionist cultural, intellectual, and psychological invasion. It is Hamas' right to struggle and prove itself in the Palestinian arena. As the PLO believes in democratic dialogue and the opinion of the majority, we should let every group have the opportunity to prove itself. I would like, however, to direct some criticism to the brothers in Hamas. I hope they have enough tolerance to listen to this criticism. The gravest danger to a revolutionary militant movement is to act as if it were above others. We should learn how to meet to discuss our differences in a constructive spirit and not to do it through the pages of newspapers. If Fatah members are guilty of wrongdoings in a certain prison or town, no doubt there have been wrongdoings by Hamas members in a prison or town against Fatah or other movements. We have a list of these wrongdoings and violations. However, we do not raise these acts in the press, because if we did, we would be solving a problem caused by Hamas or Fatah today, only to face another problem a week later. As long as there is movement and action, someone will go wrong, whether it is Hamas or someone else.

At any rate, the Palestinian house is in order and there is a continuous dialogue between Fatah and Hamas and relations on the leadership level are good. Views are exchanged on a regular and fraternal basis. There are growing relations between Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It is heartening to see Hamas beginning to make contacts with other forces and to open channels with Palestinian movements. In other words, it has begun to believe in the principle of dialogue and consultations.

[Sahib] Has a decision been taken on the question of Hamas' membership in the PNC?

[Al-Hasan] I am a member of the committee entrusted with restructuring the PNC. Before beginning its work, the committee decided that Hamas would send a representative to the committee to take part in restructuring the PNC. Regrettably, however, Hamas showed no interest.

I believe the policy of the brothers in Hamas continues to be against joining the PLO. We are sorry for that. We would like to see our brothers in Hamas taking their seats in the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee. This does not at all mean that they should change their political views. On the contrary, they can form an opposition inside the PNC and the Executive Committee. However, we should learn how to disagree, not to break up. This is a golden rule for which the Palestinians have paid in precious blood to learn. For example, we understand that Hamas does not support the PLO's program. It has the right to speak in the PNC, the Executive Committee, in mosques, and anywhere else to express its views and criticize the PLO's policy. However, there is a great difference between criticism and destruction, between criticism and distortion. We hope that a new dialogue will be held with the brothers in Hamas. If we succeed in that, we will hold a dialogue with them to discuss all issues of interest to both sides.

[Sahib] What about the current Executive Committee's meetings in Baghdad?

[Al-Hasan] There are two topics on the agenda of these meetings. The first is the Arab summit, which we consider an important strategic event and which we are counting on heavily. The second topic is the intifadah and how to deal with its issues and problems. Praise be to God, as we see, the intifadah is escalating continuously.

PLO Implements Plan To Reorganize Headquarters

JN0905122790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 May (WAKH)—Press reports in Abu Dhabi today said that the PLO is currently implementing an administrative plan to reorganize the headquarters of its affiliated institutions and to establish new central branches in more than one Arab capital, particularly those of the frontline states with Israel.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said that the most important part of this plan is the creation of an active center for the PLO Political Department, whose headquarters will be in Damascus after the normalization, in the near future, of Palestinian-Syrian relations.

The paper cited Palestinian sources as saying that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was informed of this during his recent meeting in Tunis with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

The PLO Economic Department has also begun to use the Jordanian capital, Amman, as a center for its activities.

The sources stressed that the headquarters of the PLO Executive Committee and political leadership will remain in Tunis.

'Atallah Favors Absorbing Palestinian Groups

JN0905114690 Beirut AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 May 90 pp 1,7

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], commander in chief of the Corrective Movement within Fatah and the PLO, has affirmed that Palestine—homeland and people—will remain as it has been throughout the ages, an indivisible part of the Arab and Islamic nations. Confining the Palestine question to the Palestinians, he said, means deviation from this question's national, pan-Arab, and Islamic course.

Addressing the Corrective Movement's Higher Information Council, Abu-al-Za'im said: The Palestine question is an Arab Islamic issue and the Corrective Movement is an independent movement within the PLO, which we consider the organization of all Palestinians without exception. He added: It is not strange for the Palestinians to belong to different political movements as long as these movements remain within the framework of the one Palestine house—the PLO. We should also consider the need to reorganize the PLO so that it can absorb all Palestinian political movements on an equal footing and without any discrimination except insofar as the popular bases they represent and the respect they show for Palestinian ideological pluralism, which should remain the final judge and decisionmaker on every issue affecting the destiny and future of future generations.

Abu-al-Za'im said that the Corrective Movement is an Arab Islamic movement which upholds the pan-Arab and Islamic ideologies that were adopted by the Fatah movement when it first started. We cannot divide Islam as we have divided Arabism, he added. [passage omitted]

Al-Yahya Denies PLO Involvement in Marches

PM0905105690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 May 90 p 5

[Layla Dib report headlined "Palestinian Representative in Jordan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: PLO Unconnected with Financing or Preparations for Peace and Repatriation Right Marches"]

[Excerpts] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member and representative in Jordan 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya has denied that the PLO has anything to do with preparations for, or financing of, the peace march and the repatriation right march which will proceed from Amman in the direction of the occupied territory.

Speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in the Jordanian capital, al-Yahya stressed that the PLO appreciated, respected, and was in solidarity with the people staging the two marches, because of the financial sacrifices that they were making and the hardhsips of travel that they were enduring. [passage omitted]

Al-Yahya added: We appreciate the parties which have made the preparations for, and are taking part in, the two processessions, and we wish them success in their endeavor to put pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their repressive measures against our people in the occupied territory. These measures are contrary to international laws and charters and violate UN resolutions. We also wish them success in promoting peace in accordance with UN resolutions—a just peace guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights, especially their rights to self-determination, repatriation, and an independent state on their own national soil.

Strongly emphasizing the Jordanian Government's role, al-Yahya said: "We highly appreciate the facilities that it intends to provide to ensure success of the two marches." [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Praises Yemeni Unity

JN0905185590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], held a news conference this morning in which he discussed all issues related to the ties of struggle between the two revolutions—the Yemeni and the Palestinian—and the new developments in Arab and Palestinian affairs.

During the news conference, he expressed appreciation, solidarity, and salutations of the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah, and the Palestinian people with regard to the swift and practical steps in the Yemens toward a united Yemen within the next few days.

He said we, the Palestinian people, see Yemeni unity as a progressive step toward supporting the cause of our people more and more, kicking the occupation out of our occupied territory, guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and setting up the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. We also see Yemeni unity as a great step forward in the struggle to revive the Arab unity spirit, to consolidate greater unity, and strengthen Arab solidarity through joint efforts to serve the interests of our Arab peoples and defend Arab rights, which are threatened by the enemies of the Arab nation.

He pointed out that the threats are not directed solely against the Palestinian people under occupation, but also

against Arab countries, primarily the Zionist threats and U.S. maneuvers against Iraq and Libya.

Brother Hawatimah also spoke about Palestinian initiatives to establish a permanent and just peace in the Middle East.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah then answered questions from local, Arab, and international news agencies' correspondents, and from press and radio correspondents, on all the new developments in Arab and Palestinian affairs.

The news conference was attended by brother Jawdat Yusuf, DFLP representative in Yemen, and brother Iskandar al-Asbahi, director of the Information Department at the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Al-Husayni Criticizes U.S. Stand Toward Israel

JN0905111790 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 May 90 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute for Arab Studies, by Hisham Milhim in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Milhim] What is the reason for your sudden visit to the United States? You said that you were not happy at returning to Washington because the United States does not intend to undertake any initiative to break the current deadlock and will be satisfied with observing and waiting for developments in Israel?

[Al-Husayni] I did not intend to visit the United States during my European tour. However, I did so as a result of developments in the occupied territories and due to my conviction that Shamir will not try to form a new government, but will try to lead the current government, which has certain exceptional power since it cannot be toppled. He will also try during the coming six months to work on changing many of the current facts, whether on the level of expanding settlements or exerting greater pressure on Jerusalem and carrying out unlimited oppression and terrorism against the intifadah. I came to the United States due to my feeling that the United States still believes that the Baker plan is applicable. However, we do not believe in this because we feel Shamir will implement his plan. Therefore, we believed it necessary to convince the United States that waiting to implement the Baker plan is impractical. To start with, the Baker plan came to develop the Shamir plan and push it forward. The Baker plan was formulated according to Shamir's plan. Shamir does not want to proceed with this. Hence, I do not believe we should remain bound to this plan, especially since he will not form a new government and will continue along the same line. Israel has to realize, and Shamir has to know that if the Baker plan is not adopted, then we have to propose returning once again to the international conference rather than considering the Baker plan the way toward the international conference. What is required now is that we move directly to the international conference.

[Milhim] Have you discussed these issues in detail with U.S. officials?

[Al-Husayni] I discussed these issues with the U.S. officials and the U.S. stand continues to be that of waiting to see whether or not Shamir will form a new government. Therefore, we too are expected to wait. I do not think the Americans have yet comprehended the situation soundly, although I do not want to say they do not want to.

On our part, we believe that we must continue to provide broad support to the intifadah. Specifically, we have to return it to its previous level. I believe that we in the occupied territories are capable of doing this. [passage omitted]

[Milhim] Do you believe that the American government's stand concerning the issue of settlements and Jerusalem could become points of U.S.-Israeli dispute from which the Palestinians could benefit?

[Al-Husayni] This is an issue that should be brought out into the open in light of its importance, just like the question of human rights which we strongly advocate. We must also link Soviet emigration and human rights not only in the occupied territories, but also the human rights of the Palestinian who carries an Israeli passport, his right to reunion, to build, and other such things, and respect for his human and political rights. If we address only one side of this issue and say stop the emigration, then this will bring the United States and Israel closer to each other. In other words, when I talk to the Americans, I have to talk to them in their own language, and the same goes for the Soviets.

[Milhim] You said that you were not satisfied with the results of your meeting with Dennis Ross, head of the Policy Planning Council at the State Department. Could you explain the reasons?

[Al-Husayni] I am not happy with the U.S. stand at this stage preceding the formation of the Israeli government. Their stand is merely to wait. This is an escapist stand and it means that they are leaving us alone to confront the crisis. Even concerning the points on which we meet, I found that they are not ready to take a decisive stand by us. Therefore, I believe it will be beneficial for us if Israel takes a clear stand and Shamir decides whether he will or will not be forming a new government. This will help us to deal with the Americans. And so long as there is no Israeli decision, there will not be an American decision. We expect Shamir to stall for a few months and not to form a government. During this period, he will build and expand settlements since he will have a feeling of political immunity due to the fact that it is only a caretaker government. This will harm us. Here stems my dissatisfaction with the U.S. stand. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Embassy Closures Proposed To Cut Costs

PM0905103290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 May 90 pp 1-2

[Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish report: "Algeria to Close 20 Embassies Under Policy of Controlling Spending"]

[Excerpts] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed Algerian sources that the Algerian Government intends to close and abolish 20 Algerian embassies in various capitals. This, within the framework of an austerity policy designed to limit government hard currency spending, stems also from the critical economic situation—especially with regard to the central bank's increasing shortage of hard currency, which has prevented the fulfillment of many government commitments, such as establishing prices for a number ofimported commodities, including newspapers and magazines. [passage omitted]

Most of the Algerian embassies expected to be closed are very likely to be in Africa and Latin America. [passage omitted]

Group Calls for Strong Turnout for 10 May March

LD0905195590

[Editorial report] Algiers Domestic Service in French at 1800 GMT on 9 May broadcasts a five-minute appeal by an unidentified representative of the Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal calling for a strong turnout and massive participation in the march for democracy on 10 May. He says this is a march to strengthen the democratic process in Algeria. The march is sponsored by many policital parties and associations, he notes. The slogans of the march will not be partisan, but slogans of the all-united Algerian people and democrats. He gives a list of the slogans in French and Arabic.

Egypt

Mubarak on Arab Summit, Agreement With IMF

NC1005140990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Muscat, 10 May—President Husni Mubarak has declared that Egypt has agreed to attend an emergency Arab summit conference in Baghdad on 28 May. President Mubarak commented on this to editors-in-chief of Egyptian newspapers on board the plane which flew to him to Muscat today at the start of a tour that will also take him to Beijing, Moscow, Pyongyang, and London.

President Mubarak also said that the Arab foreign ministers will meet on 22 May to prepare for the Arab summit. He indicated that in the past few days several contacts and consultations have been held to achieve Arab solidarity and detente and to ensure the Arab summit's success.

Regarding Egypt's negotiations with the IMF, President Mubarak said that an agreement has actually been reached with the IMF. He added that an IMF mission will arrive in Cairo within three weeks to prepare the draft "final agreement," on the basis of which Egypt will head for the "Paris Club" where an agreement will be reached with creditors on rescheduling debts.

President Mubarak explained that Egypt has been making intensive efforts with the IMF and the World Bank for one and a half years to reach an agreement. He indicated that the agreement has been delayed in view of Egypt's concern that economic reform take place gradually so as not to exhaust the citizens.

President Mubarak stressed that there is no solution to Egypt's problems without economic reform. He indicated that it is necessary for the people to participate in the reform process by increasing production and bearing the burdens of reform. He said that our consumption is still high and that Egypt's imports of foodstuffs are still much larger than its resources. He indicated that Egypt consumes over half of its oil production. He stressed the need for the Egyptian citizen's sense of responsibility to rise to the required level.

President Mubarak explained that subsidies now exceed three billion pounds. He stressed the need for "popular control" on speculators, indicating that many are still trading the people's food. He gave as an example some bakery owners who make a profit at the people's expense. He added that some bakery owners make a daily profit of over 4,000 pounds at a time when the state is making a great effort to provide bread.

Concluding his remarks, President Mubarak stressed the need for cooperation between the government and the citizens. He said we must cooperate and work together. He added that stringent measures must be taken to extricate ourselves from the crisis. In this respect, he referred to the plight of some African states, which have not tried to face reality and have not reformed their economies. This has resulted in stagnation in these states and has brought them to the brink of starvation.

'Abd-Al-Majid in Baghdad, Meets With Saddam

Conveys Mubarak Message

NC0905144590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today recieved Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz,

deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Sayyid Abu-Zayd, Egypt's ambassador in Baghdad.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Baghdad after the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he had conveyed an oral message from President Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn on the preparations for the upcoming extraordinary Arab summit. He added that President Saddam Husayn gave him a message replying to President Mubarak.

On the sidelines during his visit to Baghdad, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid conferred with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who is currently visiting Baghdad, and discussed the current situation in the Arab world. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz; Dr. al-Baz; Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, director of the Arab Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry; and Egyptian Ambassador Sayyid Abu-Zayd.

Returns, Supports Summit

NC0905192590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo from Baghdad this evening.

Upon his return, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that he informed Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi of Egypt's official support for the call made by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad. He said that he informed Klibi of this during their meeting in Baghdad today. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Arab arena.

INA Confirms Support

JN0905154990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—INA has learned that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently visiting Baghdad, met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi this afternoon and officially informed him of Egypt's support for the call for an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad made by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to continue consultations on preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad.

Commentaries on Mubarak's Visit to Syria

Cairo Radio

NC0905152590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 May 90

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "Mubarak's Visit to Damascus and the Grave Challenges Facing the Arab Nation"]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's historic visit to sister Syria has triggered positive reactions in the world. The Damascus summit between Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad brought to culmination the two leaders' sincere efforts, as well as those of other Arab kings and presidents, to strengthen Arab solidarity. This visit, which world radios and papers have described as successful by all measures, has aroused some apprehension among the anti-peace forces in the Middle East. These forces realized that the lengthy and intensive talks between Mubarak and his brother President al-Asad aimed primarily to accelerate gathering the Arab ranks and unifying the Arab forces so that they can face the new international changes and strengthen Arab solidarity. This has become an urgent need under the new circumstances and in light of Israel's constant refusal to join the peace process. This process now enjoys increasing international support, even from the United States, Israel's major ally in the world.

Damascus radio has described President Mubarak's visit as greatly important, especially in the current phase in which the Arab nation is facing very grave challenges. The visit is also a positive addition to the distinguished relations the Egyptians and Syrians have had since ancient times. These relations reached their zenith when Egypt and Syria were joined in a union and achieved great feats of which the Arab nation is proud.

President Mubarak's visit to Syria has brought to mind the memories of glorious days in which the two people lived in amity and cooperation as an example to others and during which they participated in a heroic struggle that wrote a bright page in the annals of the Arab nation's struggle.

President Mubarak's visit to Damascus asserted to the Arab nation's enemies that the ties among the Arabs are strong. These ties cannot be undermined by vicissitudes and crises because the Arabs have always been brothers in times of hardship, regardless of their superficial differences, which are mere summer clouds that soon disappear.

The wonderful popular reception and great hospitality accorded to President Mubarak were not merely spontaneous feelings. Instead, they reflected the truth about the historic link between the two countries and embodied the hopes and aspirations of the majority of the Arab masses, who have long yearned for the march of Arab relations to take the correct path. The Syrian people's reception of the Egyptian president was an indicationn

of their love for and appreciation of President Mubarak and his wise policy of purifying the Arab atmosphere and remobilizing all the Arab nation's resources and capabilities to achieve a just and comprehensive peace which involves all rights. Such a peace will not give up a grain of Arab sand and will not compromise on an iota of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Hence, the two Arab leaders' talks focused on the Arab nation's concerns and problems, foremost of which the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the need for Arab action to confront this imminent danger. The two leaders also discussed the efforts to completely clear the Arab atmosphere.

It is no secret that our Arab nation is facing grave challenges. The only way to confront these challenges, be they in the Middle East or elsewhere, is to correct the march of Arab relations in a way that will reflect the impact of these relations in the theater of events. We reassert that building a strong and unified negotiating Arab position is the only way to enable the Arab nation to confront the challenge of peace—especially in light of Israeli arrogance and intransigence—and to induce Israel to reconsider the intransigent stands on which it insists, depending on its old calculations which preceded the Damascus summit and which made it believe that Arab solidarity is impossible.

We must also assert that the Damascus summit has opened the door before correcting the march of Arab nations. This will make the Arab nation capable of facing all regional and international challenges and of occupying a proper place in a world that is being reshaped.

AL-AHRAM

JN0905161490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 May 90 p 7

[Editorial: "A Successful Summit by Every Standard"]

[Text] The wonderful popular reception and great welcome the Syrian people have accorded President Husni Mubarak cannot be seen only in the obvious display of spontaneous feeling that reflects the reality of the historic bond between Syria and Egypt. This is, in effect, an embodiment of the aspirations and hopes of the Arab masses who have long awaited the day when the course of Arab relations would be corrected.

Through their sincere expression of love and appreciation for President Mubarak, the Syrian masses were voicing their support of the conscious political approach adopted by President Mubarak to clear the Arab atmosphere and remobilize all the energies and capabilities of the nation. Moreover, they also wanted to express support for the approach and strategy of a just peace that clings to every right without relinquishing one inch of Arab land or disregarding any of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

If we say that the Damascus summit between the two leaders, Mubarak and al-Asad, has crowned an enormous effort by the two presidents—with the participation of some Arab leaders—the aim behind this is only to expedite reunion and reunification of Arab strengths in order for us to adapt to the new international situation and be able to deal with this new reality with the utmost seriousness and responsibility through a sincere understanding of the capabilities of the entire Arab nation.

It is certain that all Arab concerns and problems were discussed in detail during the Mubarak-al-Asad summit. The greatest emphasis, however, was definitely placed on the emigration of the Soviet Jews to Israel and the Arab action needed to face this imminent danger. In addition, the two leaders discussed a group of interrelated issues that can be classified under the same category; that is, the continuation of efforts to improve Arab relations. We are referring the problem of the Iraqi-Syrian dispute, the Lebanese problem, in addition to the accumulated problems between Damascus and the PLO.

There is a feeling in the Arab world that the Damascus summit, which has been well prepared, will be able, God willing, to achieve its basic objectives. Perhaps the announcement made hours after President Mubarak's arrival in Damascus on ending media campaigns against Syria confirms the truth of this feeling.

Our Arab nation is facing grave challenges. The only way to face these challenges is by opening a new page so a new era can begin that reflects the true magnitude and weight of our capabilities.

If the challenge of peace, especially in light of Israeli arrogance and recalcitrance, is at the top of the list of Arab challenges, then we have no other choice—while continuing with our consistent effort to advance the peace process and restore usurped Arab rights—but to build a strong Arab negotiating position to force Israel to reconsider its inflexible positions. It has held tenaciously to these positions on the basis of old calculations formulated before the Damascus summit and which hold that Arab accord is impossible.

We have no doubt that the Damascus summit has succeeded, thanks be to God, in establishing the basis and strong foundations of the forces of Arab confrontation—forces that are equal to the gravity of the horrendous regional and international challenges we are facing.

AL-JUMHURIYAH

JN0905160090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Today's Duties and Tomorrow's Hopes"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's historic visit to Damascus has achieved many important and positive results, whose effects will be reflected on the Arab and international arenas. After the return of the historic continuity between Cairo and Damascus and the formation of the

joint higher committee specializing in economic and political cooperation, chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries, President Husni Mubarak declared his agreement with President Hafiz al-Asad on the need to hold an Arab summit on a regular, annuual basis, to be preceded by preliminary meetings by the foreign ministers.

This proposal contains the ideal way to clear the Arab atmosphere and settle urgent disputes right from the start. It is also an appropriate blueprint for Arab action and coordination to confront the changing events on the international level. From it, Arab roles can emerge based on regional and international circumstances, and Arab coordination—which is required in international forums—will occur, and make the hostile forces realize that they are confronting effective action and active diplomacy. This would urge them to change their bets and move Arab policy from a reactive nature to an active one. It would also achieve the desired results for the Arab causes, and would support Arab rights.

The sequence of Arab meetings in Damascus has concluded, and the ties of Arabism and brotherhood have triumphed. The average Arab feels great joy, because the Damascus meeting proved that Arab solidarity has returned with strength and might. It remains that all loyal efforts be intensified to remove the remaining differences among some other Arab countries, especially since all Arab leaders are convinced that this is no time for conflicts in a world where all small units are merging into large regional groupings that form the backbone of a new world system being born now.

AL-AKHBAR

JN0905153890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Successful Visit by all Standards"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria has been a good opportunity for the fraternal Syrian people to reaffirm the close historical relations that have bound them with the Egyptian people in ancient and recent times when the two states took part in some of the greatest achievements in which the Arab nation takes pride.

The visit reminds us of the great days when the two peoples lived in great amity and ideal cooperation and took part in the unforgettable heroic struggle. The visit also represents a strong statement to the enemies of the Arab nation that the ties between the two countries cannot be ignored and that any disagreement that might occur will be no more than a passing summer cloud.

The intimate relationship between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad will boost the relations between the two countries even further and expand all areas of cooperation in a manner that produces the best results for the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. The new spirit will also be reflected in the various Arab and international issues that were discussed by the two leaders. Their discussions on these issues will guarantee a clear and solid foundation for supporting the Arab's policies on the world level to confront all the recent challenges with a unified policy that forces the international community to show respect for the Arab nation and its efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Mubarak Grants Amnesty to Jailed Communists

PM1005094990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 90 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Before His Visit to Soviet Union President Mubarak Issues Amnesty for Egyptian Communist Organization Members"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree pardoning members of the Egyptian communist organization who had received sentences ranging from one to five years' imprisonment in the case concerning the party's reestablishment and the convening of its general conference in 1981.

Some party members contested the verdict but their appeal was rejected and the state security investigation organ implemented the verdict at the end of last year. Then the defendants submitted a plea for amnesty on the basis of the nonsubsistence of the reasons which led to their detention, including the Camp David accords. [as published]

The Egyptian presidency's moves come a few days before President Mubarak's visit to Moscow.

Meanwhile, informed political sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that part of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's talks in Moscow, scheduled to commence officially on the evening of 14 May, will focus on military aspects with a view to signing a military agreement.

Under the agreement the Soviet side will continue to provide maintenance for some of the spare parts for the Soviet weapons still in service in the Egyptian Armed Forces and to supply new weapons, including a helicopter deal worth $100 million. This is in addition to the return of the military attaches to the two countries' embassies.

Soviet Ambassador Zhuravlev Views Cooperation

NC0905191690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has emphasized that President Husni Mubarak's upcoming visit to Moscow will signal an important era for strengthening and consolidating the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Egypt and for promoting the joint understanding between the two countries.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the Soviet ambassador said that strengthening relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union is in the interests of the two peoples, will contribute to bolstering international peace and security, and will serve as an important factor in

stabilizing the critical situation in the Middle East. He said his country takes pride in the wide scale and fruitful cooperation that exists between them. He added: Not only are we eager to maintain these ties which were established by past generations, but we are also working to develop them in new ways.

The Soviet ambassador said a draft long-term program for trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union until the year 2000 has been prepared. This draft program, he added, will serve as a firm foundation and a guarantee for the success of bilateral cooperation. He noted that within the context of bilateral economic relations, the Egyptian technical and economic installations that had been established with Soviet help are now being renovated and expanded and that the volume of commodity exchanges between the two countries is on the rise, both in terms of value and diversity.

The Soviet ambassador said we are currently searching for new forms of cooperation in the fields of culture, science and technology, exchanging data, sports, tourism, and city twinning through the work of friendship associations and other social organizations.

Regarding the Soviet-Arab relations under the policy of perestroyka, the Soviet ambassador said it is not among the Soviet Union's principles to let down its friends. He stressed that the friendly and multi-sided relations between the Soviet Union and the Arab states are rapidly progressing, and it is our policy to further promote and develop these ties.

Responding to another question on the Soviet Union's views on President Mubarak's proposal to turn the Middle East and the Indian Ocean region into an area free of nuclear weapons—a demand which is in line with the declared Soviet position on the matter—the Soviet ambassador renewed his country's support for President Mubarak's initiative. He added: We are ready to take practical steps within the UN organizations to put this initiative into effect.

He pointed out that his country gives considerable attention to the Middle East in order to follow up in detail on the various sides to the region's problems. Evidence of this is the recent visit to the region by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, he said. He noted that there are wide-scale arms cuts agreements in force in Europe and Asia, and this is a universal trend. He added that the Middle East region ranks third after NATO and the Warsaw Pact in terms of military spending, but in order to end the arms race the cause of the conflict must be eliminated.

Concluding his interview, the Soviet ambassador said there is a another viewpoint which says that as long as the arms race continues, the conflict will remain. However, it is my country's view that the process of disarmament and a halt to the arms race must go hand in hand with efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict.

Polish Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit

NC1005065590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—A five-member Polish parliamentary delegation led by Andrzej Stelmachowski, marshal of the Polish Senate, arrived in Cairo early this morning for a four-day visit at the invitation of Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi.

Dr. Hilim, who received the delegation, stated that the visit falls within the framework of bolstering the friendly relations between the two countries amid the current major international changes. It is also part of Egypt's efforts to strengthen relations with friendly countries, including Poland, he said.

Dr. Hilmi said the delegation will hold talks on Egypt's role in bringing about a just peace and its efforts on both the Arab and international levels. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Deputies To Form Party

PM0905102990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 May 90 p2

[Unattributed report: "Political Party for 'Brotherhood' in Egypt"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed parliamentary sources in Egypt that the Muslim Brotherhood group intends to announce the formation of its own political party early in June.

The sources said that the Muslim Brotherhood deputies in the Egyptian People's Assembly will submit an official application to Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub naming Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi as head of the Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary group. [passage omitted]

Arabs Urged To Transfer Funds From Banks

NC1005064890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 90

["Talk" by Anwar Zahir from the "Arab Horizons" feature]

[Text] Arab resources are a source of power for the Arab nation as a whole, but they are not being used to achieve pan-Arab goals. We find that the majority of Arab states suffer from low standards of living and are unable to carry out national development projects in their territory; that this same majority is heavily burdened by foreign debt, the interest on this debt, and the consequent enormous pressures exerted by the creditor states and institutions which impose additional burdens on these states' citizens; and that these deteriorating conditions exist in the majority of the debtor Arab states. However, we also find that some Arab states are earning a great deal of interest on funds invested in foreign states and institutions.

If these rich Arab countries have managed to implement comprehensive development projects in their countries in record time, then this is to their credit and their governments deserve praise. However, a question must be asked about the interest gained from these assets: Is it not better for these assets to be directed to other Arab countries to promote the development of these states and their citizens instead of having these assets accumulate in a manner that only serves to augment the propserity of the West and Westerners?

The collective debt of the Arab states amounts to approximately $180 billion. This figure represents no more than one-quarter of the fixed interest on their assets Arab states receive from Western financial institutions. Why are we wasting our assets in other states when these assets could provide security for us against future dangers?

To answer this question, we must realize that investment of Arab funds in the Arab states in order to serve the Arab man is, in the long run, more permanent and lasting for us and future generations. This is true security.

We do not call for Arab funds to be transferred from their owners' accounts to the Arab states without sufficient guarantees. Let there be sufficient guarantees and binding agreements. Let there be creative and sincere plans to serve the Arab man. Unless we take such a view of our nation's affairs, we will continue to be subject to the dictates of foreign states and their economic institutions while the citizens of these states benefit from Arab assets.

Libya

Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia

LD0905152390 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Namibia was signed in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, last night. The commnique reads:

Arising from the principles of the United Nations Charter and the OAU, and out of the desire of the Republic of Namibia and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to develop the fraternal relations between the Libyan Arab people and the Namibian people, the two sides have decided to anounce the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states at the highest possible level as from 8 May 1990.

The communique was signed by the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Botswana and, on the Namibian side, by the deputy foreign minister.

UN Representative Hits U.S. 'Double Standard'

PM1005083990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 90 p 3

[Interview with Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libyan permanent representative to the United Nations, by Khalil Matar in New York; date unspecified]

[Excerpt] [Matar] What is your comment on the report published by the U.S. State Department which accuses you of espousing what it terms terrorism?

[Al-Turayki] I believe that that report, which the U.S. Administration is trying to present as a certificate of good conduct for the world's states, contains no truth and does not represent reality. The United States has persisted in classifying states on the basis of its own interests and bilateral relations. Many fascist regimes which have a close relationship with Washington have been ignored, on the pretext that their relations are strategic and important for the United States in Africa or Latin America.

Why, for instance, does the report not include the terrorist acts committed by Israel, such as kidnapping and detention, as well as the mass murder operations committed daily against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories? This is in addition to poison gas, the breaking of children's bones, and the Palestinians' expulsion from their territory—which are all acts that should be branded as state terrorism.

Undoubtedly there is a double standard in U.S. policy: On the day relations with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen were restored, that country was placed on the terror list. And while President George Bush was thanking Syria, the U.S. State Department included it on the terror list.

[Matar] The U.S. accusations include states with which Washington has diplomatic relations and states with which relations have been restored—except for Libya—despite such accusations. What is the state of relations between you and the United States?

[Al-Turayki] The adoption of unobjective criteria in dealing with or trying to classify states is an anachronism. The world is now heading toward dialogue and cooperation to deal with problems facing mankind as a whole, such as the problems of famine, the environment, foreign debt, and epidemic diseases. These things require solutions to regional problems and the elimination of racism's last strongholds in the Arab homeland and Africa. These are the things for the sake of which the world must cooperate.

[Matar] Do you have any contacts with the Americans?

[Al-Turayki] For our part, we have no complex about being big or small. We believe in resolving problems via dialogue. We have always expressed our readiness to

cooperate with the United States and bring about balanced relations as well as relations of fruitful cooperation in both countries' interests.

We also believe that it is in the U.S. interest to have cooperation with the Arab homeland and nation. Its interests in the Arab homeland exceed those with Israel. Thus, adopting a neutral and positive policy toward Arab issues is bound to enhance these common interests.

[Matar] Do you sense any change in the U.S. position, especially on the Bush administration's part?

[Al-Turayki] We hoped, and we still hope, that President Bush would adopt a more balanced and more positive position with regard to both relations with Libya and the Palestinian issue. We appreciate President Bush's position on Israeli settlements. We also appreciate the position announced by Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate and a principal leader of the Republican Party, to which President Bush belongs. All this is a good sign, because we have seen for the first time a U.S. leader speaking about U.S. interests, not Israel's interests or the interests of the U.S. Zionist lobby.

I believe that we Arabs must encourage that approach and restore Arab-U.S. relations to their status in the fifties, and indeed at the beginning of the century, when President Wilson adopted hostile stances toward colonialism and demanded its elimination, especially in the Arab region.

[Matar] And toward Libya?

[Al-Turayki] In Toronto, Canada, President Bush expressed in a statement his appreciation for Libya's help in securing the release of the French hostages in Lebanon. We believe that there are now grounds for a serious discussion of the problems existing between the two countries and the normalization of relations and their restoration to normal so as to serve common interests. And I do not believe that there are difficult problems which cannot be resolved.

[Matar] How can these problems be resolved?

[Al-Turayki] That can be done in accordance with the basis upon which I agreed when I was foreign minister with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in September 1979, namely the formation of a joint committee between the two countries to discuss the pending questions and to find a healthy foundation for relations between the two countries. And I believe that the positive development which has occurred in Arab relations as well as the positive development occurring in the Arab and African regions can reflect on Libyan-U.S. relations.

[Matar] President Husni Mubarak proposed making the Middle East region free from nuclear and chemical weapons. What is your view?

[Al-Turayki] It was clear for some time that the Western campaign focused primarily on Libya. On many occasions we said that the campaign against Libya was merely a beginning, that it would later extend to include the other Arab states.

It now includes Iraq. This campaign aims to achieve nothing else but to deny the Arab nation the acquisition of technology and legitimate defense means and to guarantee Israel's continued military and technological superiority. And the allegations about al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant and against Iraq lie within that framework.

At the Paris conference on chemical weapons last year the Arab nation called for banning chemical and nuclear weapons on the grounds that they are mass destruction weapons, and for linking them in the Mediterranean region. Then President Mubarak presented a specific proposal in that regard, which I believe is a practical and positive proposal. And those who are weeping over what they term the Arabs' acquisition of chemical weapons must respond to that appeal and request Israel to sign international agreements and destroy the nuclear and chemical weapons in its possession, so that this region will become free from nuclear and chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Hassan Speech on Human Rights Council Creation

LD0905181790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 90

[Speech by Moroccan King Hassan II delivered at Diafa Palace on 8 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] King Hassan II announced today the establishment of the Human Rights Consultative Council. This announcement was made in His Majesty's speech delivered at Diafa Palace, which was broadcast live on radio and Television. Here is now a repeat broadcast of the royal speech.

[Begin recording] [Hassan] Thanks be to God, prayers and peace upon our prophet and his companions. Gentlemen, you all know that this safe country—and since God chose for it an inspired leader, devout worshiper, and preacher of God's book and Suna; he is Moulay Driss I, may he rest in peace—up to this very day, you know that our beloved country has always occupied the first positions within the international community and occupied one of the highest ranks. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we have decided that this meeting should be dedicated, not for the creation of a state of law, but for the completion of a state of law. A state that once and for all would like to put to an end hearsay with regard to human rights. We would like to settle this issue.

The second point behind this meeting is to give citizens a speedy, legal, serious, and effective instrument with which to defend themselves as citizens when dealing

with the administration or the police or the state. Before I continue my speech, may we listen to the list of members that we have appointed as members to the Human Rights Consultative Council. This council will operate alongside ourselves. We have chosen these members either directly or indirectly.

The direct way was like this: We asked all political, trade unionists, and liberal organizations to propose three names or candidates from which to choose the members. On this occasion, I would like to salute these organizations because the names they provided us were all, thank God, chacacterized by seriousness, scruples, and a geniune patriotism.

As for the other members that we chose directly, they were chosen because of their personality, credibility, experience, and their concern for their country.

[Unidentified official] President: Mohamed Larbi Mejbour, first president of the Supreme Council.

The members:	
Ministers:	
Moulay Mustafa Belarbi Alaoui	Minister of Justice
Abdellatif Filali	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Driss Basri	Minister of Interior and Information.
Abdelkebir Alaoui M'Daghri	Minister of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs
Ahmed Reda Guedira	His Majesty's Adviser
Political Parties:	
Mohamed Ziyan	Constitutional Union
Ahmed Laasky	Independents National Rally
Messaoud Mansouri	People's Movement
Tissir Khatib	Istiqlal Party
Mohamed Bouzoubaa	Socialist Union for Popular Forces
Lahcen Gaboun	Democratic National Party
Thami Khayari	Socialist and Progress Party
Mohamed Chenouki	National Union for Popular Forces
Mehjoubi Aherdane	War of Liberation Veterans
Moulay Abdesslam Jebli	War Veterans
Central Trade Unions:	
Hachmi Bennani	Moroccan Labor Union
Adbderakak Afilal	General Union of Moroccan Workers
Mohamed Hatimi	Popular Trade Unions
Abdelmajid Bouzoubaa	Democratic Labor Confederation
Human Rights Organizations:	
Ahmed Benamou	Moroccan League for the Defense of Human Rights
Mohamed Seddiqi	Moroccan Organization for Human Rights
Judges League:	
Mohamed Bouziyane	President of Chamber at the Supreme Council of Judges League
Lawyers Organization:	
Mustafa Raissouni	Moroccan Lawyers Organization
University Lecturers Body:	
Mohamed Jalal Essaid	University lecturer
Abdellah Laroui	Historian and university lecturer
Habib Malki	University lecturer
Allal Si Naser	University lecturer
National Doctors Movement:	
Abderrazak Guennoun	Surgeon
Other Personalities:	
Maxime Azoulai	President of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Council
Abdelhadi Boutaleb	President of the ISESCO [expansion unknown]
Ahmed Afzaz	President of Religious Council of Oujda
Abdellah Guersifi	President of Religious Council of Agadir
Ahmed Fizazi	Former governor
Khatri Ould Sid Said Joumani	Member of the Consultative Council of Saharan Affairs
Mohamed Meslaf	Former general secretary of Arab Justice Ministers Organization
Albert Sasson	Director of the UNESCO Director General's office representing Moroccan Jewry in Paris

[Hassan] Thus, you notice respectable gentlemen and dear people that we have selected. We have tried to surround ourselves, our options, our opinions, and our decisions with the highest possible guarantees. All these persons whose names you have heard, firstly, have proven their patriotism; secondly, are proud of their country's reputation; and thirdly, fear no one but God.

We will put our august seal on the decree establishing this council. The broad lines of this council are that it will have a president, and you have heard the name of that president. It will have a secretary general. We have decided to appoint Mr. Mikou, the well-known and respected judge, at the head of the secretariat.

It has been decided that this council should meet at least twice a year, or whenever is necessary, either if called or if a quorum of two-thirds of its members decides to meet, to look into the issues and affairs submitted to it.

Our ears, and the ears of all Moroccans; a few might hear that there are political prisoners in Morocco. If God, the homeland, and the king are attacked, they attack God; they attack our beliefs, our homeland, and our constitution. If this is considered a political crime, then allow

me—and I do not want to influence you—to ask: who among the Muslims would go to a Muslim country and ask the people to adopt a faith other than Islam? They will catch him and send him to the doctors to see whether he is sane or not.

If he persists and insists on calling for a religion other than the religion of God, the religion of Islam, and if he is sentenced, whatever the sentence or the prison sentence, this man cannot be given the attribute of political prisoner.

And, if one day we hear or read that a Moroccan says that this or that parcel is not part of Moroccan territory, then I believe this is heresy. The person in question cannot come within the law and be called political detainee or prisoner.

And whoever uses a banner or a newspaper or a speech to say that there could be another regime other than the regime of constitutional monarchy, then I would not consider such a person as having engaged in a political action, but rather an act of sabotage against the will of the people, and against the Constitution.

I believe that the conscience of this consulative council would be safe to consider that the sacred trio for this country—God, homeland, king—cannot be [words indistinct] by anyone. [Words indistinct] they must be safe from hunger, disease, [word indistinct]. They must enjoy [words indistinct], medicine, doctors' visits, and [word indistinct]. What is more, the judicial regime and the state must provide them with everything that will guarantee dignity.

Gentlemen, I would like you to look into all the dossiers which will be submitted to you with complete freedom, neutrality, and goodness.

Naturally, Moroccans should not confuse normal complaints with those of concern to the Human Rights Consultative Council. [passage omitted]

You will be the mirror of objective truth, which you will decide and will aspire to from all angles and with all measures. This will be within your duties, and you will submit it to us as soon as possible with recommendations and requests which show the depth of the truth. This is your duty so that no one remains in this country, even if he is a convict, without enjoying the necessary dignity or without enjoying all the guarantees given by the law of the land. This is your job. This is your mission. Your mission is to clean the face of Morocco, because under any excuse, Amnesty International or any other organization comes and imposes supervision as if we are still under the mandate.

Better than this, I ask you in the name of God, out of your honesty and patriotism, to help me give back their rights to those who have had their rights taken away from them. I ask you to help me to take this country together up to the level of civilized countries, countries of the rule of law.

Lastly, I ask you to really be the ones to defend, positively or negatively, (?to be together positively in the face of this file) [words indistinct] or negatively in the face of this file, with no violation of human rights, and that these are lies, fabrications, and forgery.

I cannot abandon the trust and confer it on you, but I tell you that both you and I share the trust. [Words indistinct] you meet once a year [words indistinct]. You meet and vote. If [words indistinct] and the case comes in the context of human rights, you must study it, and inform me of causes, as well as your requests and views about this, with all honesty and whatever your job, whether men of law, engineers, doctors, university teachers, or representatives of political bodies or societies that we honor and love. [passage omitted]

I want to say that the idea of the Consultative Council for Human Rights is not my idea. At the beginning of the month of Ramadan I was inaugurating [words indistinct], he told me that our close friend president [words indistinct], has summoned the consultative council for human rights. [words indistinct] who among the French knew of the existance of a consultative council for human rights? [passage omitted with portions indistinct]

Morocco [words indistinct] is a junction of roads and trends. We are grateful to God for this strategic and geographic position and for the flexibility of Moroccan [word indistinct], and for our strength and capability to coexist and harmonize with all other civilizations, cultures and trends. [passage indistinct] Now [words indistinct] comes the second point. In the first point we spoke about human rights and we actually gave it more than it deserves. [passage indistinct]

Our ambition is to have an administrative chamber in every province. We have decided that in the first stage—although this is the task of the justice minister himself—administrative courts wil be set up in the (?various) regions. The young people at the Institute for Legal Studies must know that we are going to set up a court in every province and every province which sets up a court must (?appoint) at least 50 (?people) to the latter. [Words indistinct] every province must have an administrative chamber [words indistinct] if no agreement is reached at a given provincial administrative court, the case can be referred to another court. Should the dispute remain, (?after the case is referred to all the administrative courts), the administrative court at the Supreme Court will give its final decision. This is the real framework of the state of law. The problem (?lies) in the (?use) of power. Some exceed their powers and others [words indistinct] others distort the power entrusted upon them [words indistinct]. There are other problems, such as the electoral (?campaigns) which were looked into [words indistinct] in the provinces or the regions on a temporary basis, these matters will now be referred to the constitutional and administrative chamber. Moreover, there are the (tax complaints). Every Moroccan will have the right to go to the administrative court in his province to tell them that (?he has been charged too much).

For this reason also, the Ministry of Justice must create a section for the fiscal law. We have made a great effort as far as the tax system is concerned, and (?first of all) carry out tax exemption. [passage omitted including indistinct passage]

Why did Gorbachev not say to Bush: What do you do in Congress? And why did Bush not say to Gorbachev: What do you do in the Kremlin? The issue of human rights was only acrobatics, with the Helsinki agreement; the state of law is this one. (?When we talk about this, we mean) authority, the administration, and the state. The authority has no right to go beyond its powers. [passage omitted]

Law in this country is clear, and every property is guaranteed. I try to say that it cannot be reduced or amended unless it comes within the framework of planned development, and is studied and voted by the parliament. [passage omitted]

[Passage omitted] Gentlemen, these are the guidelines. Some of them could be translated now into the Consultative Council for Human Rights, and some of them, God willing, after drafting, will be submitted to the Government Council. Then they will be submitted to the Council of ministers. We hope that it will be approved or amended and then passed at this session, the spring session. [passage omitted]

Further on Council

LD0905211390 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Rabat, May 9 (MAP)—King Hassan II announced, Tuesday evening in Rabat, the creation of a Consultative Council on Human Rights. The council will have a mission to determine, on a case by case basis, whether human rights have been violated or not, thus availing citizens of a "diligent, serious and efficient means to defend their rights as citizens vis-a-vis the adminstration, the authority or the state itself."

The council chaired by the first president of the Supreme Court, comprises four cabinet members, namely ministers of justice, of foreign affairs and cooperation, of the interior and information and of endowments and Islamic affairs. [passage omitted]

The sovereign acknowledged he had taken the idea, "practically point by point" from that of "our dear friend (French) President Francois Mitterand...a socialist." He said Morocco has no complex about retaining others' ideas when virtuous.

"...We have taken for reference the philosophy of a Socialist Party. It is an asset for Morocco," King Hassan said.

Addressing the council's members, King Hassan said he had convened the meeting "not to institute, but to complete the state of right." He in this regard recalled that since its founder Moulay Driss first to date [as received], Morocco "has always had the ambition to occupy a respectable place within the international community...considering itself as living in a civilized society side by side with advanced countries. I beseech you help me restitute his right to he whose right has been violated and help me so we can all raise our country to the rank of civilized nations where the state of right reigns," King Hassan told the Council's members.

He urged them to "judge in all serenity" whether or not human rights have been violated in any given case. If yes, you shall cry out the truth. If not, you should not hesitate to say human rights have not been violated, there have been lies, false testimony, falsificaiton. The council will then submit to the sovereign all cases it deems necessary, along with its recommendations.

"You shall reflect the objective reality" in Morocco, the sovereign said, for "I cannot know...yet I have the duty to remedy the situation and ensure justice to victims of inequity."

"It is a great responsibility you are shouldering, so that never again would a man in this country, even those sentenced, be deprived of his dignity and the guarantees given him by the law." [passage omitted]

To complete the edification of this state of rights, the sovereign said, "it is our duty to take into consideration the citizens' rights vis-a-vis the authority, the administration and the state itself." King Hassan thus announced the eminent creation of regional adminstrative courts "in each prefecture or province," hopefully "within two or three years."

The regional administrative chambers will be a decentralized extension of the Supreme Court's central administrative chamber, "so far the only body competent to consider contentious opposing the citizen to the authority." Later, these regional chambers will become chambers of appeal.

Citizens could thus sue authority (police forces, local authority), contest outcome of elections and fiscal decisions or those concerning private property, etc....

King Hassan on the occasion paid tribute to all Moroccan political parties and trade unions who, when asked to propose three people each so one could be designated at the Consultative Council, proposed people known for their integrity, professional conscience and authentic patriotism.

Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Arrives 9 May

LD1005055490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in our country today. [passage omitted]

Sudan

RCC Member, Officials Discuss Border Clashes

EA0905132490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 9 May (SUNA)—The member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Major General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir has said his government is currently intensifying diplomatic endeavours to halt the ongoing skirmishes between the Chadian Government and opposition troops.

Al-Tahir, who conferred here Tuesday [8 May] with Darfur Region's deputy governor, 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim, and the commissioner of south Darfur Province, Dr. 'Umar Muhammad Ismail, told reporters that these attempts were in the context of evaluating the Chadian troops from Sudanese territories, as their presence harasses the citizens' interests in the area.

He added that he had briefed the delegation in this connection, indicating that the meeting discussed the security and supply situation, as well as procedures currently under way to transport the region's quota of [word indistinct] and food supplies.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Addresses Governors' Seminar 8 May

LD0805135390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 90

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the conclusion of the seminar of governors on 8 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Gentlemen, the importance of the current situation in the country is no secret to you, at a time when we are preparing for the organization of the municipal elections and the eighth plan, which will be, God willing, a serious new step on the path of the comprehensive development of the country. [passage omitted]

Messrs. Governors, the organization of the municipal elections for the first time since the change is considered the most important political event following the presidential and legislative elections of April 1989. I believe that the amendments carried out in the electoral code, in connection with the articles related to municipal elections, which have been subjected to elaborate discussions and consultations, will be the best incentive for the political forces to take part in these elections with optimism and reassurance. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, I remind you of what I had stressed in my speech during the final session of your previous seminar. You should be committed to full neutrality, equality in dealing with the various candidates, and the objective implementation of law, so that these elections can take place within the framework of sincerity, transparency, and (?patriotism).

Gentlemen, the preparation of the eighth plan will be an opportunity during which you will fully play your role in order to express more and more the orientations of our civilization and the choices of the new era, and to enhance the work of development in the various regions. [passage omitted]

We have decided that the new plan should emanate from the people's will, through a wider-ranging consultation starting at the regional level. The opportunity will be given to all those who are qualified and those who have ideas—regardless of their leanings—to formulate a comprehensive concept which will gain the biggest share of participation and understanding, and become like a national economic and social pact, which all the national forces will take part in implementing. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

President Sends Message to Mubarak on Morocco

LD0905144890 Algiers APS in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (APS)—A message from the president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Mohamed Abdelaziz, to President Husni Mubarak was handed Tuesday [8 May] to the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, by the Sahrawi minister of education, Mohamed Salem Ould Salek.

According to the Sahrawi official the message is related to "the obstacles which the presence of Moroccan troops, administration, and settlers in Western Sahara create in front of the peace process and the OAU-UN joint action."

Kuwait

Ministry Spokesman Comments on Election Candidates

LD0905140690 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1341 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, 9 May, KUNA—A responsible source at the [Kuwaiti] Interior Ministry has declared the number of candidates in the national assembly election had reached, by the closing date, 568 people spread over 25 constitutencies.

The source told KUNA the number of candidates who announced their intention to run in the elections reached 166 on the closing date itself, while 50 others withdrew their candidacy on the same day.

The source added the deadline for the submission of candidatures to the national assembly elections expired at the end of the official opening hours today. However, those who had already submitted their candidacy will be entitled to withdraw from the race until the end of the official opening hour on 5 June.

PDRY

Presidium Chair Receives YAR Foreign Minister

EA0905102290 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, today received in his office brothers Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and member of the General Committee of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], who briefed him on the results of their visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Iraq, where they had delivered two letters from the Yemeni political leadership addressed, respectively, to His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The letters dealt with developments and the (?decisive) unification steps currently taken in the Yemeni arena towards declaring establishment of the unity state, the coordination in progress to hold the next Arab summit, and Yemen's constant stance in calling for the marshalling of all Arab efforts to confront the current developments affecting joint Arab action.

Brother al-'Attas hailed the results of their visits and the sincere fraternal stance adopted by Jordan and Iraq in supporting our Yemeni people's efforts to restore their national unity. He stressed the Yemeni Republic would be a powerful factor in inspiring our Arab nation towards achieving overall Arab unity, and it would strengthen its relations with all its brothers, in the service of our national and progressive causes.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani, the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the General Committee, left Aden, the economic capital of the unity state, for Sanaa, the capital of the unity state, and he was seen off by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister. It is worth mentioning brothers al-'Iryani and Jarhum briefed the Yemeni leadership on the results of their visits to Amman and Baghdad, where they delivered two letters to the Jordanian monarch and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, respectively, from the united Yemeni leadership.

Qatar

Amir Receives Saddam, 'Umar al-Bashir Messages

JN0905120090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Doha, 9 May (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received an oral message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with the current situation in the region, the extraordinary Arab summit, and bilateral relations. Iraqi Ambassador in Doha Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq conveyed the message when the amir received him here today.

The Qatari amir also received a written message from General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, dealing with the situation in Sudan, developments in the Arab arena, and means of promoting joint cooperation between the two countries. Sudanese Ambassador in Doha Ahmad Yusuf Mustafa conveyed the message when the Qatari amir received him here today.

Saudi Arabia

Differences Within Committee on Lebanon Denied

LD1005100890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0918 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Riyadh, 10 May (SPA)—An authoritative source condemned allegations in yesterday's—9 May 1990—issue of the Beirut newspaper AL-BAYRAQ that differences exist between members of the Arab higher tripartite committee in charge of finding a political solution to the Lebanese crisis.

In a statement made today to SPA, the source said: "We will not be content with merely denying these allegations. We emphasize that the committee, which consists of the Kingdom, Morocco, and Algeria, is continuing with the plan which aims to bring about security and peace in Lebanon according to the stipulations of the al-Ta'if document that was unanimously adopted by the Lebanese deputies."

Spokesman Says Capacitors Legally Imported

JN1005100690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0948 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement concerning the capacitors displayed by President Saddam Husayn at the Arab popular conference for solidarity [with Iraq]: The capacitors displayed by President Saddam Husayn at the Arab Popular Conference for Solidarity with Iraq on 8 May are U.S.-made and were imported from the United States in 1988 by Baghdad University of Technology legally and according to the regulations. Iraq does not intend to use these for nuclear purposes, but rather for scientific research.

Popular Solidarity Conference Concludes Meetings

JN0905200690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Meetings of the Arab Popular Conference for Solidarity with Iraq in its confrontation of Zionist and imperialist threats were concluded at the conference hall this evening.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the External Relations Bureau, delivered a speech at the final session of the conference. In his speech, Jasim said the outcome of the Arab Popular Conference for Solidarity with Iraq was the result of the intellectual, mental, and moral qualities brought by the conferees from their own countries, organizations, and parties.

Comrade Jasim said the resolutions of the conference, which show splendid solidarity with Iraq, will remain in the memory of Arabs and Iraqis as an expression of the sincere sentiments and noble principles of this nation's sons.

Jasim added the pan-Arab support by the Arab nation for Iraq in its confrontation of the fierce onslaught on the eastern flank is being repeated today. This pan-Arab position is now being taken against the new onslaught from imperialist states and Zionism—the onslaught against the very existence and being of the entire Arab nation, not only of Iraq, Jasim said.

Jasim went on to say: We in Iraq, beginning with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and ending with the people, rely a great deal on you in the next battle, a battle that is bound to occur because the other side has usurped the land and seeks to expand and usurp Arab rights in general and Palestinian rights in particular. We, as His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said, will not retreat.

Jasim said the battle is coming, and those attending the Arab popular conference must maintain a constant state of alert. He added: If the battle occurs here or there, we must run to the rescue of the country concerned, each of us in his own way, as the words voiced inside this hall were not mere words without genuine sentiments in your hearts—sentiments that reflect those of your institutions, parties, and popular and mass organizations.

Comrade Jasim said Iraq is maintaining a state of alert and preparedness for confrontation, because the food for this confrontation is the Iraqi martyrs who have fallen on the eastern flank, the Arab nation's martyrs who have fallen throughout the Arab history, as well as the living conscience of the enlightened minds of the Arab nation, the cream of which you represent at this moment.

Comrade Jasim declared this mass gathering has been a splendid pan-Arab gathering in which the spirit of Arab history, the vigor of the present, and the enthusiasm of people bound by unity has emerged. We have seen the enthusiasm of those who reject submission and humiliation and who are ready to face dangers regardless of the form and nature of these dangers, he added.

Comrade Jasim then said: They say the Zionist entity possesses atomic bombs. We respond by saying that you, the Arab masses from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Arabian Gulf, are our atomic bombs, that we have the great hero Saddam Husayn, and that we also have binary chemical weapons manufactured by Iraqi hands and minds to deter anyone who contemplates infringing on our land and holy places.

Jasim characterized the final statement and resolutions of the conference as an expression of the Arab nation's spirit when that nation's spirit is in a mood of tranquility, when its conscience is awakened, and when the Arab soul and mind rise to the desired levels of responsibility. You have risen to this desired level, thank you all, Jasim concluded.

Issues Final Statement

JN1005074190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1653 GMT 9 May 90

["Statement to the Arab Nation" issued by the Arab Popular Conference for Solidarity with Iraq held in Baghdad 7-9 May, read by Amin Shuqayr, head of the Jordanian Popular Committee in Support of Iraq—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In response to a call by victorious and triumphant Iraq, the Arab Popular Conference for Solidarity with Iraq met in Baghdad, the city of Arabdom, victory, civilization, and peace, under the patronage of struggler President Saddam Husayn from 7-9 May 1990 with the participation of delegations representing political parties, popular organizations, federations, trade unions, active forces, and political, scientific, and intellectual figures from different parts of the Arab homeland. President Saddam Husayn attended the third session of the conference and delivered a valuable speech, which was considered one of the main documents of the conference. The opening session was also attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who delivered a speech also considered one of the documents of the conference.

The delegations expressed their deep awareness of the grave dangers posed to the Arab nation by the hostile and savage onslaught which the forces of evil and darkness, represented by Britain, the United States, the Zionist entity, and their satellites, have launched against the Arab nation by their attack on heroic Arab Iraq. So far, this onslaught has sought two objectives: The first is to distort Iraq's image following its victory marked by the liberation of al-Faw, eastern al-Basrah, al-Shalamjah [Chalamche], the Majnun Islands, and al-Zubaydat and the successful Ramadan Mubarak, Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah, and Muhammad Rasulallah operations by fabricating lies, distorting facts, and using well-known writers in the Zionist and imperialist news media to play down and underrate Iraq's victories and exploit the execution of Zionist spy Bazoft, holder of a British travel document whose sentence was handed down in a fair court trial.

The second is to fabricate lies about an Iraqi nuclear program by playing up the story of the electric capacitors, which Iraq is importing for scientific purposes that have nothing to do with a nuclear industry, and to claim the steel pipes imported by Iraq from Britain are intended for a long-range supergun that could fire nuclear warheads to destroy the Zionist entity in Palestine.

The evil and hostile line, which the United States and Britain are pursuing at the behest of World Zionism in order to paralyze Iraq and disrupt its scientific programs through such press and diplomatic campaigns, is in fact a forward step in their plan to terrorize the various countries of the Arab nation, put pressure on them, and take economic sanctions against them. Yet, the United States, Britain and their allies continue to ensure the protection of Israel's nuclear industries from international inspection and to provide these industries with the nuclear technology, funds, and equipment they need. They also continue to protect Israel from any international decision condemning its true violations. Moreover, they encourage Israel to commit aggression against the Arab countries, exercise its arrogance, and issue its threats against Iraq through Zionist civilian and military officials.

The vile hatred revealed by the U.S., British, and Zionist policies, which was behind their positions toward the Arab nation and its aspirations and hopes, has existed for a long time. They practiced this hatred in various degrees and on more than one occasion. This practice used to increase whenever signs emerged the Arab nation is determined to abandon weakness and backwardness and confront the challenges threatening its existence.

For example, the determination of late Arab Leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir [applause] to liberate Egypt from the restrictions imposed on it—restrictions which confiscated its freedom, independent decisionmaking, and sovereignty; gave the colonialist the most important of its utilities; and imposed military and economic occupation on it—embodies the determination of freedom and national liberation forces.

'Abd-al-Nasir had broken the monopoly of the supply of arms, evacuated the British forces from the Egyptian territories, and nationalized the Suez Canal. This angered the colonialists and the Zionists. They massed their forces and carried out the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, not only to regain the Canal and reimpose occupation, but also to destroy the spirit of liberation and awakening in Egypt and the Arab world.

The conspiracies continued to bring about a crushing defeat to the aspirations of Egypt and the Arab nation. Then came the conspiracy of secession [of Syria from unity with Egypt in 1961] and the June 1967 war, which resulted in the occupation of Sinai, the Golan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. The war also made the United States strengthen its influence in the entire Arab region and give the Zionist entity the freedom to reject any retreat from the territories it occupied and to mess around with the future and destiny of Palestine and the neighboring Arab states—those whose territories were occupied and others. The United States allowed the Zionist entity to occupy Lebanon twice and gave legitimacy to the Zionist policy of annexation in the face of a disgraceful Arab impotence that has been existing for almost a quarter of a century.

What the Arab nation has been subjected to in the past through 'Abd-al-Nasir's Egypt is being repeated now through the conspiracies that are being hatched against Saddam Husayn's Iraq [applause] The pan-Arab awakening in new Iraq has provoked the imperialists and Zionists and made them see what they consider a threat against all their strategic objectives of hegemony over, and domination of the Arab world and its resources and sites. The Iranian aggression constituted the most dangerous part of these conspiracies. It was crystal-clear the battle of Arabism in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq is the same battle, and the Zionist entity's positions nowadays confirm this.

However, Iraq has managed to destroy this conspiracy, emerge victorious from the war with its head high, and to proceed on the road of comprehensive development and scientific progress.

Iraq's problem with the evil forces hostile to the nation is due to the fact Iraq has cut through all the red lines these forces consider forbidden to the Arabs: First, Arabs do not have the right to become strong and achieve victory. Second, Arabs are not allowed to unite, progress, or achieve solidarity. Third, Arabs are not allowed to possess means of science and technology. Fourth, Arabs are not allowed to realize economic and social development programs that will allow them to leave the list of underdeveloped countries. Fifth, their societies must remain in contradiction and discord, so not a single society in any Arab country can become united.

What the enemies consider as red lines were stormed and infiltrated by Iraq. Iraq, furthermore, underscored its Arab affiliation. The enemies might have fully understood this because the positive results and consequences

of the Iraqi position go beyond Iraq's borders to cover the Arab homeland, including Palestine. This position provoked the imperialists and the Zionist entity and made them feel their method is now genuinely threatened, especially since President Saddam Husayn has stressed Iraq's responsibility for maintaining pan-Arab security when he announced any act of aggression against any Arab country is, in the eyes of Iraq, an act of aggression against Iraq [applause], and that Iraq will find itself ready to respond to any Arab country asking for help in fighting the aggression.

The Zionist and imperialist threats to Iraq and the Arab countries come against the backdrop of this Iraqi position. Iraq is committed to its methods and plans and will not retreat. Iraq does not sell cheap its dignity and that of the nation; it is determined to possess power and adheres to its right to explore the field of science and modern technology and build the institutions that suit it and the nation. Iraq does not perpetrate acts of aggression, but is determined to crush the aggression and the aggressors against its lands and any Arab land [applause]. Iraq will not remain in line with those who still live in fear of moving toward securing the freedom and sovereignty of the nation and safeguarding its dignity and honor [applause]. Iraq is determined to wrest Arab rights from the hands of the Zionists and their backers, and it firmly believes there is no room for unilateral friendship and respect, and that the interests and rights of any party cannot be considered unless this party understands and respects the rights, interests, options, dignity, and national security of the Arabs.

If the nation's enemies are resorting to hostile practices and measures against Iraq and the Arab nation, then the nation has the right to confront its enemies by deterrent policies and measures to stop the aggressors. The correct pan-Arab reaction to the enemies' attempts to fragment Arab structures and entities is the adoption of a unionist approach inside every Arab country and among all Arab countries. The current threat to the Arab homeland, concerning aggression against water resources in Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon, and the link between this threat and the Zionist role in the Red Sea and Ethiopia, are part of the criminal campaign against the Arab countries, which aims at tampering with their water rights and using them as means of pressure and blackmail.

The overall Arab situation since the defeat of June 1967 points to the fact that a great part of the enemies' scheme was achieved through many facts: Discrepancy among Arab governments strengthened, conflicts deepened, estrangement intensified, barriers heightened, unionist pan-Arab voices faded, and several Arab forces linked to the hostile scheme in one way or another became established in every Arab country. The enemies managed to control important and wide areas of decisionmaking, guidance, and indoctrination to liquidate the spirit of resistance and the will of freedom and liberation, to get rid of the pan-Arab commitments, to entrench regional sentiments, and to continue hostility toward democracy and human rights, and, consequently, create conflicts among brothers.

The 17-30 July 1968 revolution was probably one of the most distinguished expressions of the Arab nation's serious and responsible desire to change the course of events in the Arab homeland.

In light of the abovementioned, by taking cognizance of the speeches made by the conferees, and by considering the many proposals and recommendations, the following has been decided:

1. The [Arab] Summit:

The pan-Arab task and the need to defend the Arab national security necessitate the speedy convening of an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad [applause] to express effective pan-Arab solidarity with Iraq against the unjust threats and campaigns to which it is subjected, to confront the conspiracy of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, and to provide material, political, and moral support to guarantee the steadfastness and escalation of the valiant Palestinian intifadah.

2. Solidarity with Iraq:

The Arab popular conference expresses full and effective solidarity with the Iraq of Arabism and support to its militant leader, Saddam Husayn [applause]. The conference expresses its continued mobilization and stresses the forces taking part in it are fully prepared to do whatever will strengthen Iraq's steadfastness, entrench its pan-Arab course, and protect its independence and honor.

The conferees believe the Zionist and imperialist media campaigns, as well as the political pressures directed against this militant country, valiant people, and patriotic leadership, have exposed objectives which must be defeated. The conference declares all its resources and public mobilization capabilities are available to face the imminent Zionist aggression against Iraq. The conference considers the aggression against Iraq an aggression against the entire Arab nation.

3. The Intifadah:

The Arab popular conference salutes the Palestinian people's valiant intifadah against the Israeli occupation troops, which is approaching the end of its third year with full momentum, and in which all Palestinian people in the occupied territories are taking part. The conference pays tribute to the sacred martyrs and highly praises the steadfastness and valor of the heroic Palestinian people, particularly the wounded and detained who are subjected to the ugliest forms of torture and suppression at the hands of the Zionist racist occupation troops.

The conference urges our Arab nation's masses and governments to provide all forms of support to the Palestinian militants who are defending their Arab nation's honor and sacred places, via the PLO, the sole

legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The conference stresses the need to improve political and financial support to the intifadah. It also urges all free men in the world to support the Palestinian people's just struggle to regain their legitimate national rights and establish their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, [applause] and to expose all methods of suppression and terrorism carried out by the troops of the Zionist occupation, supported by the United States of America, which provides it with all forms of political, military, and material support to continue its aggression against the Arab nation.

The conference resolves to consider itself a constituent conference for the Arab popular front to support the valiant Palestinian intifadah [applause]. The conference has authorized the follow-up committee formed during the preparatory meeting, which was held in Baghdad on 8 December 1989, to discuss and approve the documents of the front and its leading bodies in consultation with the parties, forces, and mass organizations in all Arab states. [applause; 5-minute interruption in transmission to carry prayer call]

4. Immigration:

The Arab Popular Conference viewed with great concern and disapproval the immigration of Soviet Jews and others to occupied Palestine, in which several international parties are involved. The conference strongly denounces this horrible plan, which is not only aimed at usurping the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, but also is a direct aggression against the entire Arab nation, a continuing threat to this nation, a blatant encroachment on the rights of the Palestinian individual, a violation of all international pacts and agreements, and a serious threat to security and peace in this part of the world.

The United States, which falsely advocates human rights, closes its borders to the influx of Soviet Jews and provides enormous funds to the Zionist movement to finance the immigration and the building of settlements for them in Palestine and southern Lebanon. This takes place at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The United States also exercises all forms of pressure on peoples and nations to facilitate the racist emigration of Soviet Jews and others through pressure, blackmail, and false promises.

The conference vehemently calls upon all countries from which emigration is taking place to stop this hostile operation against the Arab nation immediately. [applause] It also calls upon all countries providing facilities for the emigration of Soviet Jews to stop doing so in order to preserve their friendship and interests with the Arab nation.

The conference calls on all Arab establishments, organizations, and masses to confront this imminent Zionist expansionist danger using all the means in their power to preserve the right of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people to live in a lasting and just peace, and to also work in international forums to expose this suspect operation before world public opinion.

5. Jerusalem:

The holy City of Jerusalem is being subjected to a wide-ranging plot to annex the holy city, change its character, Judaize it, expel its original Arab inhabitants and replace them with alien immigrants, and encroach on Islamic and Christian holy places, especially the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is being done by the Zionist occupation authorities. The Zionist entity is abetted in this odious crime by certain U.S. circles under Zionist influence, such as the Senate and the House of Representatives, which have passed resolutions that are wrong and contrary to all international laws, pacts, norms, and UN resolutions.

The conference strongly rejects these resolutions part and parcel and considers them an aggression against the sanctities and rights of the Arab nation. It strongly condemns the Senate and House of Representatives resolutions and declares Jerusalem is the capital of the independent Palestinian state [applause], and that any change in its demographic nature is contrary to international law and will be strongly resisted by the Arab nation.

The conference calls on Arab governments to adopt a firm and clear stand against the U.S. Congress' resolutions.

6. Pan-Arab Security:

Work should be done to adopt a pan-Arab security plan. Arab intellectuals and opinion leaders representing the Arab nation in this popular conference should formulate the constituents and framework of this plan, with the conference's follow up committee completing the final draft. The strategic plan should be based on the following principles:

A. The security of the Arab nation is an integrated whole. This means aggression against any Arab land or people constitutes aggression against the entire Arab homeland and Arab nation.

B. The plan should aim at the following:

First: Reactivating the Collective Arab Defense Pact. [applause]

Second: Threatening U.S. interests and the interests of countries siding with its anti-Arab schemes. [applause]

Third: Laying down a comprehensive and unified strategic pan-Arab security plan. [applause]

Fourth: Defining the principles of pan-Arab action and constraints that no one can violate, especially noninterference in internal affairs and the principle of not using arms against brothers. [applause]

Fifth: Defining the duties of party, popular, professional, and intellectual organizations in confronting potential

dangers and the event of any Arab country being subjected to foreign aggression. The popular Arab conference should be called into session immediately.

7. Departure of Fleets:

The conference calls for the departure of the American military fleets [applause] and all foreign fleets from the Arabian Gulf. It believes their presence, silence about them, and the rendering of any services to them is harmful and dangerous to pan-Arab security. [applause]

8. Oil

Arab oil should be used according to a pan-Arab policy aimed at safeguarding the interests and dignity of the Arab nation through determining the quantity of production, the pricing policy, and what parties to do business with. [applause]

9. Weapons of Mass Destruction:

The conferees demand our region be free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, [applause] and that the entire region without exception be subjected to continuous international inspection. Otherwise, the Arab nation will have the natural right to possess these weapons to defend itself. [applause] The Zionist entity, supported by some Western countries and in collaboration with the racist regime in South Africa, has managed to produce and stockpile all sorts of destructive weapons, especially nuclear weapons. It has refused to allow inspection of its nuclear plants or to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, whereas all Arab countries have signed the treaty. We point out here the exposed aims of the vicious and unjust campaigns against Iraq in which no reference was made to the Zionist entity's stockpile of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction.

10. Arab Investments:

To guarantee the nation's interests, achieve its goals, support its causes, and express the Arab nation's rejection of the hostile forces' policies, the conference recommends:

To ask the Arab governments to reconsider the Arab governmental and private investments in the United States, Europe, and the countries allied with them [applause] against the Arab nation; to employ these investments as a legitimate pressure tool against the concerned parties and decisionmakers in those countries hostile to the Arab nation and which conspire against it and against its interests and rights; and to transfer as much as possible of these investments to be invested in:

a. The Arab countries which need to improve their resources and economy and free themselves from foreign hegemony resulting from their need to borrow.

b. The Soviet Union and the East European states to lessen the U.S. and Zionist pressures against these countries and to prevent the Zionist western capitals from having a monopoly in this area.

11. The Scientific Approach:

The conflict demonstrated by the crisis between the Arab nation on the one hand, and the Zionist and imperialist forces on the other, is represented, in certain aspects, by the scientific and civilizational difference between the Arab nation and these forces. Iraq was one of the first to diagnose the crisis and to shoulder its tasks to bridge the gap between it and the hostile forces, beginning with its belief in the need to bridge the gap and then adopt an approach armed with financial resources and allocations, to build an advanced scientific base to help it carry its responsibilities in all aspects of science and technology.

The state of affairs created in Iraq should never be an extraordinary one, but must become a general Arab state of affairs. Arab governments must seriously give this aspect the priority it deserves as soon as possible, because it is connected with the destiny of the nation and each of its states.

For us to make scientific thinking—in theory and practice—one of the bases for scientific awakening and progress, a scientifically minded Arab generation must be built. Ministries of education and higher education, universities, and all those concerned with building knowledge must pay attention to the new generations in the Arab countries. They must also intensify the teaching of pure and applied sciences to make the new Arab man qualified to possess the means of modern science and technology on the one hand, and to take the Arab nation out of the position of the subservient nation. If the Arab nation continues in the subservient nation position, it will remain alien to modern science and its development and to technological progress, its independence will be shaken, and the opportunities to use the factors of the nation's power will be wasted. [applause]

12. Yemeni Unity:

The conference members have followed with great interest and satisfaction the decision made by the two leaderships of the Yemeni homeland to expedite the achievement of unity. [applause] The establishment of the single Yemeni state at this particular time is considered a great victory for the Arab nation in facing the challenges confronting it and an important step toward comprehensive Arab unity.

13. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah:

The conference condemns the continuous imperialist threats against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and expresses its solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people in confronting these threats. [applause] It also reaffirms their right to defend their sovereignty, freedom, and independent national decisionmaking.

14. Eritrea:

The conference declares its solidarity with the fraternal Eritrean people [applause] and its support for their just struggle.

15. Followup Committee:

i) The conference, while concluding its work today, entrusts the host country, fraternal Iraq, with holding the necessary consultations to form a followup committee representing all the political parties, popular organizations, federations, trade unions, and national and pan-Arab figures in the Arab homeland. Baghdad shall be the headquarters of the followup committee. [applause]

ii) The followup committee shall determine the formulas for fulfilling the duties of the parties, organizations, and figures in the event of any aggression against any Arab country by the Zionist entity or by any hostile party, and shall convene the conference immediately in that event.

iii)The Arab popular conference shall meet annually, or whenever necessary. The conference urges the parties, organizations, and figures to make sure the Arabs are alert and active and do not submit to any aggression or abandon their duty to increase popular awareness to the dangers facing the nation to confront these dangers firmly and effectively, to crush Zionist and imperialist plots, and to create a new future for a nation whose strong vitality and spirit this conference expresses.

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

'Aziz, Arab League's Klibi Discuss Summit

JN1005063690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. They discussed the arrangements for convening the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad today.

'Aziz, Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid Confer on Summit

JN0905151190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During the meeting, they discussed arrangements for the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Baghdad and other issues of common interest.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid arrived in Baghdad earlier in the day on a brief visit to Iraq.

Shomron, Netanyahu on POWs, Detainees' Release

TA0905144490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The chief of staff, General Dan Shomron, says there are no contacts regarding the release of hostages, nor any real proposal in this respect. Gen. Shomron said Israel would free the detainees it is holding to win the release of American hostages, but first wants to see the return of its own POW's. He was speaking at a gathering in Tel Aviv held by Bar-Ilan University, which is organizing scholarships in the name of Yoni Netanyahu, who fell in the commando attack to release the Israeli hostages in Entebbe in 1976. [In a similar report at 0400 GMT on 9 May, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew reports that "Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin says that Israel is prepared to use all the cards it has to bring about the release of the hostages and the POW's. He claimed that Shaykh 'Ubayd is one of the cards Israel holds."] Netanyahu's brother, Binyamin, now deputy foreign minister, told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the lesson of Entebbe is not to knuckle under to terrorism:

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] The lesson of Entebbe is that free societies, if they muster the courage, the determination, the resolve, can overcome threatening evil however barbaric, however overpowering.

[Ben-'Ami] In Entebbe in 1976 the issue was freeing Israeli hostages. Today there are other hostages, and there are calls from America for Israel to make some sort of a gesture to perhaps release Shiite prisoners Israel is holding as a gesture to try and encourage the release of hostages. How do you feel about that?

[Netanyahu] Well, Israel is holding detainees. They are, of course, not hostages; these are not innocent bystanders yanked off the street of Beirut. But these are people who were trying to infiltrate Israel's northern border to perpetrate violence against us. We are holding these detainees, and we are prepared to exchange them for our own POW's. Like any country, we want to bring our boys back home. If, in the course of this exchange, the Western hostages are released, we will, of course, be delighted. So much the better.

[Ben-'Ami] There is a way, perhaps, of getting the process started: releasing, as a gesture, some of these prisoners. Do you think that is viable, feasible?

[Netanyahu] Well, I think that the message is out there; the possibilities for an exchange for POW's is out there. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 9 May adds that Netanyahu said "the United States has not pressured Israel on the release of prisoners but he added that Israel is cooperating with the U.S. Administration and other countries on the matter."] The question, really, should be directed at those who are holding the hostages and those who influence those who are holding the hostages, and those are the Governments of Syria and Iran. They can effect the release of all hostages, they can bring our boys back home, and they can effect the release of these detainees for our boys as well, if they so wish. In any case, we would be delighted to see all the hostages, and of course our POW's, come back home and come back home safely. [end recording]

Shamir Repeats Condition for Swap

TA1005092390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 May 90 p 1

[By Herb Keinon]

[Text] Israel will not free Arab prisoners unless it obtains the release of three soldiers held in Lebanon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday.

No progress has been made on the release of the soldiers captured in Lebanon in 1986, Shamir said. He spoke to reporters after touring Satec, a high-tech factory in Jerusalem set up to provide jobs for Soviet immigrants.

Asked whether Israel would agree to free Arab prisoners, Shamir said, "I don't think anybody will ask Israel to participate in such an endeavour without having a possibility of the release of our own prisoners and missing soldiers."

In the U.S. pressure has been mounting to get Israel to convince the South Lebanese Army to release 400 Shi'ites.

Further on Efforts To Form Unity Government

Likud Reaction 'Chilly'

TA0905173390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] There has been a chilly reaction from the Likud to this morning's decision by the Labor Party leaders expressing willingness to negotiate on a national unity government headed by Prime Minister Shamir. Shamir is still trying to form a narrow government with the far right and religious parties, although he did not rule out a national unity government completely. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] Prime Minister Shamir said he has nothing against national unity, on the contrary, he is for it. But, he would to study the proposal and see if it is feasible. Our reporter Steve Linde asked him if he would accept Labor's demand to reaffirm the government's November decision accepting Secretary Baker's five points. But all Shamir would confirm was his commitment to last May's decision, that is, the original peace initiative.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We think that the new government that we will establish will continue its activity according to our peace plan of 14 May 1989 that was accepted by the government and confirmed by the Knesset.

[Linde] They were talking specifically about a cabinet decision from November....

[Shamir, interrupting] This is a detail. What I can say is that we are committed to this plan that was accepted by the government. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sharon on Defense Portfolio

TA1005045290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon says there are constant contacts between his party and Labor's Yitzhaq Rabin towards forming a national unity government. Sharon, who was addressing Likud members from Tel Aviv, opposes a unity coalition, but he told reporter Le'a Zinder he is not worried because Prime Minister Shamir has the ability to form a narrow government:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] I believe that Mr. Shamir can form a national Jewish government, which would have the support of 65 members of the parliament, of the Knesset. I believe that is the government that should be formed. It's not that we have finished all our negotiations; we are facing many difficulties, but I believe that Mr. Shamir can form such a government and that's what one should do.

[Zinder] How do you explain the contacts between the Likud and Mr. Rabin?

[Sharon] It's not formal contacts. The formal contacts—I am a member of the team which is responsible for the formal contacts with the various parties. I don't speak about that; I speak about contacts with various people in the Likud that wanted so much this national unity government in the past, and they did not understand then the situation, and they don't understand the situation now, and they don't understand that the problem of Israel is a government that can take a decision and give answers.

[Zinder] Mr. Sharon, will you be in favor of allowing the Labor Party to enter a Likud-led government at a later stage, once the government is in place?

[Sharon] No, I don't think that that should be. I think that a government which is based on support of 65 members, that is a government that can run this country for the coming two and a half years. I think what we need now is stability, and I don't think that we can come in any way to those situations that we were facing in the last year and a half.

[Zinder] What about your position in the Cabinet? You have said that you believe that you are the right person to be defense minister at this time. Are you going to insist on the defense portfolio?

[Sharon] No, I didn't raise this issue. I'm not going to raise the issue. I know exactly what I should do in this government and what I can do in the government. I personally believe that people should be nominated, appointed according to their experience and capability, but I'm not having any lobby, I'm not lobbying, I'm not going to insist. [end recording]

Labor Rejects NRP Offer

TA1005102090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The Labor Party has rejected the NRP's [National Religious Party] initiative on joining a unity government. Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish informed Minister Hammer his party cannot retract its demand for parity between the two large blocs on political matters. It adheres to its position that a positive response to Secretary Baker is a precondition for its joining such a government. The above was reported by our party affairs correspondent, Shlomo Raz.

Arens on 'Period of Tension' in U.S. Relations

TA1005050690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 May 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by anchorman Shalom Qital and political correspondent Arye Golan; place not given—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Qital] Are you worried about what is happening at UN headquarters?

[Arens] I am concerned about the U.S. move regarding the proposal on Soviet aliyah the Arab countries have raised at the UN Security Council. We know the U.S. Government not only supports the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, but has furthermore done a lot to open the gates of the Soviet Union to make sure those Jews can come to Israel. But now the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations has cooperated with the representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, South Yemen, one of the most extremist Arab countries and one which is on the list of countries involved with terrorism. This cooperation has yielded a draft statement, though only a draft at this moment.

[Golan] But, Minister Arens, if this is added to the latest U.S. statements on the settlements—the United States includes Jerusalem in the territories as well, and it objects to settlement there as well...

[Arens, interrupting] But this appears in the draft!

[Golan] Would you say this marks the beginning of a deterioration in our relations with the United States?

[Arens] There is no doubt that right now we are experiencing a period of tension with the United States, although not for the first time, and I presume also not for the last time.

[Golan] What caused this tension, sir?

[Arens] You know, we have had differences with the United States over certain issues for many years, perhaps more so with the incumbent administration in regard to settlement.

[Golan] Also regarding the absence of a positive response to Baker, would you say?

[Arens] I do not think so. I think that precisely on this matter, the administration realizes we are currently undergoing a government crisis and that it must wait until a new government is formed before it can conduct contacts with us on issues related to the political process.

[Qital] [words indistinct] a certain exacerbation over the past few weeks, namely that the Americans may have expected the crisis to last 21 days, or 40 days, but that they might think it is going on for too long?

[Arens] It is going on for too long from our standpoint as well, is it not? We are the ones suffering from it. Perhaps it is difficult for them to comprehend the entire complexity of the Israeli political system or the Israeli electoral system, but we find it equally incomprehensible.

[Golan] But Minister Arens, if a narrow-based government led by the Likud is now about to be established, one whose partners will be Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet—with the constraints camp inside the government and even holding central positions—will we not thus enter into a new confrontation, perhaps an even tougher one, with the Americans in the near future?

[Arens] First of all, I cannot either confirm or deny your innuendo regarding the composition of the new government. This will come in due course. Yet I think the basis for Israel's relations with the United States is firm. I am not ignoring the tensions that exist today, which will exist even tomorrow. After all, we always have had differences of opinion over settlements, and the incumbent administration has been more insistent on this matter than the previous one. The Reagan administration also objected to settlements, but did not make such a big issue out of it and did not highlight the differences of opinion, as the incumbent administration does.

[Qital] Mr. Arens, since we have already started on the internal political matter, I would like to focus on this matter a little now toward the end of this interview and ask you: In view of the resolution adopted by the Labor Party yesterday, can you envision any possibility at all for a national unity government?

[Arens] First of all, I must tell you I am not enthusiastic about the idea. I was among the chief supporters of the national unity government. You may recall that in 1984 I gave up the position of defense minister to allow a national unity government to be established. Yet I must admit the one set up after the latest elections disappointed us because our partner simply was not a faithful partner and constantly undermined that government's foundations, in the end even bringing about its dissolution. I, therefore, find it difficult to see the logic in a repeat of the process, or to be optimistic regarding the reestablishment of another such government, with the same partners.

[Golan] But perhaps they have learned their lesson in the meantime? Incidentally, what is your opinion of their demand for parity with the Likud in the government?

[Arens] Obviously I disapprove of this demand, because we have already seen what this parity led to and what they did with it.

[Qital] So you seem to be under the impression Yitzhaq Shamir will form a narrow-based government next week?

[Arens] I must say it is dangerous to predict the future in Israeli politics. However, we are making every possible effort to hammer together a government in Israel. This is necessary, and I believe this time it will have to be a government without the Alignment.

[Golan] Will you, then, be defense minister in that government?

[Arens] As I told you before, I am not prepared to address the composition of the government; this is the prime minister's prerogative.

[Qital] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens—and that fact is undisputed now, you are currently foreign minister. Thank you.

[Arens] Thank you very much.

Disputed Christian Building Said Housing Hotel

TA0905194290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpts] Our correspondent learned today that the disputed building in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City has been turned into a hotel called the Ne'ot David Hotel. The dwellers in the building refused to answer questions by journalists. Our correspondent Beni Liss tried to visit the building today, and here is his report:

[Begin Liss recording] [passage omitted] The Jewish genius found a trick to overcome the Supreme Court ruling that 20 people should be posted as guardians over the disputed building. To wit, the sign found on the disputed building: The Ne'ot David Hotel. When one opens a hotel, the number of people who stay in it depends on the number of beds. This may be 20, 30, or 40; the number of beds is identical to the number of people staying in the building. [passage omitted]

Well, there is a Jewish hotel in the Christian quarter. In the reception area, we saw a chart on the number of beds occupied and the daily rates quoted in U.S. dollars. In reply to our question, the Hotel Union said it has no knowledge of the opening of an Israeli hotel in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem. [end recording]

Settlers Deny Reports

TA1005042390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The settlers in the hospice in the Christian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem maintain the reports a hotel has started to operate on the premises are totally unfounded. They claim although the building was rented for that purpose, since the High Court of Justice's ruling only 20 representatives of the Panamanian company are staying at the site to conduct maintenance and guard work.

Cadet Commits Suicide; 34th Soldier in Past Year

TA1005090090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 90 p A2

[By military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer candidate shot himself at his base yesterday. Military sources said the circumstances of the death are being examined. [passage omitted]

According to official data, in the 12 years between 1974 and 1985, 290 IDF soldiers, including 16 women, committed suicide. In just the past work year, which ended in January 1990, 34 soldiers committed suicide; 26 of them were standing Army soldiers and eight were on reserve duty.

IDF sources said that the mere publication of the suicide stories has an effect, and that it is possible that this publicity increases the number of suicides.

Trade Deficit Rises in First Trimester of 1990

TA1005092890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 May 90 p 8

[By Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The trade deficit for the first trimester of 1990totalled $1 billion—some 30 per cent more than the deficit recorded during the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

While imports for January through April rose by 10 per cent as compared to last year, exports rose by only 6.5 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted figures show that during the past two months, the deficit averaged $324 million, some $87 million more than during the two previous months.

A spokesman for the bureau attributed the increase in the trade deficit during March and April to a 6 per cent hike in imports, including a $46 million increase in fuel imports, and a 5 per cent drop in exports.

During the month of April alone, imports totalled $1.1 billion. Almost 80 per cent of the goods imported consisted of production imports, including diamonds and fuel. The bureau spokesman attributed the increase in imports mostly to the increase in fuel brought into the country and to the jump in fuel prices.

According to the figures reported yesterday, imports of investment goods, such as machines and equipment, stayed at the same level during March and April as during the prior two months. The statistics also showed that imports of consumers goods remained static as well.

Exports for April totalled $767 million. Sixty-eight per cent of the exports consisted of manufactured goods, 25 per cent were diamonds, and 7 per cent were agricultural products, the bureau spokesman reported.

Seasonally adjusted figures show that in April and March, exports of manufactured goods were 5 per cent lower than in the two previous months. Hardest hit were manufacturers in the metal and electronics fields, who saw a 16 per cent drop in exports.

On the other side, rubber and plastics manufacturers experienced a 13 per cent hike in exports, and food and textile manufacturers a 8 per cent increase.

Yacht Incident Termed 'Ominous and Inexplicable'

JN0905125690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 May 90 pp 1,3

[Text] Amman (J.T)—A Royal Palace spokesman Tuesday confirmed reports that an Israeli navy boat in the Gulf of Aqaba fired into the pathway of His Majesty King Husayn's yacht late last month while the King was standing on deck.

"This is not the first incident to occur in the gulf involving the royal yacht, although it is the first to include firing in its immediate vicinity," the spokesman said in a statement carried by the Associated Press.

The spokesman said that the incident took place on April 27 and not as previously reported on April 28.

He said Jordan complained to Western countries over the incident and warned that "diplomatic action was taken to draw attention to its extreme seriousness, for it held all potential of developing into a most serious confrontation with untold results."

The spokesman described the incident as "both ominous and inexplicable."

According to the spokesman, the incident took place Friday 27, at 4:00 p.m. when King Husayn—accompanied by Their Royal Highness Prince Hamzah and Princess Iman—was planning to go on a fishing trip.

The spokesman said the U.S. built, 54-foot Bertram "Sports Fisherman" left the marina outside the royal residence in al-'Aqabah and was escorted by a Bertram 31 boat carrying security officers.

The spokesman said the King was heading towards Pharoh's Island in Egyptian territory, near the Egyptian resort of Tabah.

"The intention was to proceed to a point in Jordanian waters just beyond Yamani point before turning westwards towards Pharoh's Island in Egyptian territory... then fishing south of the island before returning to al-'Aqabah," the spokesman said.

He said the King was standing on deck while the boat was still in Jordanian waters and noticed an Israeli naval boat approaching.

"When about a quarter of a mile away, the Israeli boat commenced firing from its main guns in a southwesterly direction, where water spouts marked the fall of some of the shots," the spokesman said.

He said the King ordered the accompanying security boat to return to Jordanian shores and the King's yacht "turned a few degrees eastwards leaving the Israeli boat further to its starboard as it passed it."

The spokesman said that the King "had decided against turning westwards towards Egypt, since the Israeli boat was still firing sporadically into what would have been the yacht's path."

Later, the royal yacht slowed to trolling speed and fishing lines were deployed, when the Israeli boat started chasing the royal yacht and stopped few metres away from it.

"It then increased speed cutting across the yacht's bows, well inside the Jordanian territorial waters, as verified by sight and radar," the spokesman said.

He said the yacht's radar showed the Israeli naval boat to be "within a mile of the Jordanian shore."

The spokesman said Israelis had carried out earlier attacks on King Husayn' yacht.

"In fact several months ago, an Israeli naval boat was on collision course with the royal yacht, forcing it to stop and alter course," he said.

He said on that occasion a royal European visiting head of state was on board with King Husayn while on rout to Pharoh's Island.

"It has not been unusual for His Majesy to host foreign dignitaries visiting Jordan" on a sea excursion for nearby historical places, the spokesman said.

Israel Television reported Monday [7 May] that an Israeli navy boat came within 100 metres of the yacht and members of the crew took pictures of the Monarch.

It said the Israeli patrol boat also fired its two 20-millimetre guns as part of a "weapons check" when the King's craft was one kilometre from the Israeli vessel, it said.

Israel's military command issued a statement Friday denying media reports that the boat fired at the royal yacht as it sailed in the international waters. It said some shots, part of a routine weapons check, were fired while the Monarch's craft was in the vicinity, and that the shots were aimed in another direction.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said last week that the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, has expressed deep concern to the Israeli government over the matter. Brown was told the Israelis have taken steps to avoid another such incident, he said.

Masa'idah Interviewed on Defense Law, PLO Ties

JN0805120990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 May 90 p 17

[Interview with Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, by Ahmad Kurayshan, in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kurayshan] Popular and official circles are talking about the formation of many political organizations and parties. Can Jordan accommodate this large a number of organizations?

[Masa'idah] To the best of my knowledge, people say that these are political organizations. However, these organizations are groups whose political platforms are close to one another. I recently learned that the number of these groups has reached 30. Our view of the situation is that there have so far been no licensed parties. They might be described as potential political groups which might come into existence in the future, in view of the provisions that may be incorporated into the charter. These groups might produce five or 10 parties; however, talk of parties is still very premature. The issue of forming parties will largely hinge on the work of the charter commission and the provisions to be contained in this charter. Besides, it is hoped and wished that we will not have a large number of parties with conflicting platforms, God forbid, since everybody seeks to serve the country, to strengthen it, and to endeavor to safeguard its security and prosperity. We also hope that the groupings with close intellectual and political platforms will agree among themselves to form a certain bloc or a single party. The talk on parties is therefore premature, very premature.

As for the parties law in force, it contains specific conditions that must be met. This law gives the government the right to license the organizations which meet these conditions to work as recognized political parties. The law that we have is general and does not contain any details. It is hoped that the charter will provide clarifications and details to make it easy for the government to deal with the requests for licensing made by political organizations by providing clear and specific requirements. [passage omitted]

[Kurayshan] It is being said that the government has drawn up several new laws to deal with the new democracy sweeping the country. Will you tell us more about this?

[Masa'idah] As a matter of fact, I do not know the exact number of relevant laws. However, the government has strived since the beginning of the democratic phase in the country to explain the pertinent bases and laws. We found that the laws currently in force do not cover many issues that have emerged with this new phase. The government pledged to all citizens through the cabinet statement delivered during the vote of confidence session and subsequent sessions, and at the request of parliamentarians, to honor a set of legislation on basic liberties, to revoke the defense law and to end martial law. The government also undertook to suspend these laws, pending their official revocation. The government has honored this commitment with regard to the suspension of martial law. So far, martial law regulations have remained suspended. The same thing goes for the defense law, which is being applied within the narrowest possible confines. However, no legal proceedings have been taken in accordance with the defense law or martial law since the government pledged to revoke them before the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

[Kurayshan] Will the government honor its commitment to revoke martial law as it promised before the House of Representatives?

[Masa'idah] As I have said, some of the provisions and rules contained in the defense law were drafted to cover daily practices that have nothing to with defense affairs, to cover issues that in no way undermine defense or the country's security. These provisions and rules tackle daily issues. Hence, we began to draw up draft laws to replace this legislation covering daily activities such as import and export activities and investment incentives. What does martial law have to do with these activities? In order to revoke the regulations based on the defense law, we need permanent legislation governing people's daily activities. People practice daily export, import, and investment activities in accordance with the defense law. They also buy commodities and have prices fixed in accordance with this law. Consequently, why can we not have a supply law, an industry law, and a law on standards and specifications? Regrettably, all these things were governed by defense regulations. We are now in the process of drafting legislation to replace these regulations.A

s for the government's promise to revoke martial law, I would say: Yes. We will keep our promise and revoke martial law even before the deadline that we have set, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Kurayshan] Jordanian-Palestinian relations are constantly expanding. Positive points are being emphasized in every field and negative ones are disappearing, leading to a full identity of interests on both sides.

[Masa'idah] Several meetings have taken place with the PLO brothers. In the meeting chaired by his majesty the king and Mr. 'Arafat, a lengthy discussion on Jordanian-Palestinian relations was held. It was based on their cordiality, brotherhood, cooperation, and common interests. As we have a common destiny, our action must be coordinated in every area. It was made clear by his majesty the king and the Palestinian brothers that the doors were open for all kinds of cooperation and in any appropriate direction. The meetings did not produce a plan of action, but there was emphasis on readiness for every kind of cooperation, which is now actually taking place. Nothing has been specified by the PLO so far, and the subject of confederation was not discussed at this stage.

[Kurayshan] Has the return of Palestinian institutions to Jordan been raised?

[Masa'idah] No. And I want to explain what we mean by cooperation. There is Jordan and there is Palestine. We have Jordan and the Jordanian Government on one side and the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on the other. We must coordinate our positions in the service of the Palestine cause, especially as it is facing many hostile schemes and many complications, particularly at this moment. The biggest threat is

the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine. There should be a unified Arab position on this issue, which is demanded by both Jordanians and Palestinians, especially the Palestinians. Jordanian support has no limits, and, therefore, Palestinian and Jordanian sides appear as one. Current PLO moves, supported by Jordan, concern the call for an Arab summit to discuss this subject because it concerns not only Jordan and Palestine, but the entire Arab nation. [passage omitted]

[Kurayshan] According to statistics, some 45,000 citizens have failed to return to the West Bank and are now staying in Jordan. Is this true?

[Masa'idah] Approximately 46,000 people have exceeded the period of their legal stay in Jordan. But I do not want people to think that citizens are leaving the occupied Arab territories. Some came to Jordan and lost their right to return, but their numbers are limited; not all of the 46,000 people lost their right to return. Some come here and get permission to stay for one, two, or three months. This includes all those who exceeded this limit. But the fact is that the majority of these people still have valid travel permission from the occupation authorities. They can return later. The figures, therefore, could be misleading at times. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim Interviewed on Talks With Klibi, Summit

JN1005064790 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Marwan al-Qasim said Jordan is doing everything to make the Arab summit a reality. In an interview with Jordan Television, the foreign minister said that no Arab country can deal with the period ahead without being part of a coherent Arab position.

Rana Najm asked Mr. al-Qasim on the proposed summit and his talks with the Arab League secretary general.

[Begin recording] [al-Qasim] It was an occasion for Jordan to express its views in the clearest possible manner to the secretary general of the Arab League. We have spoken at earlier occasions for the need of an Arab summit. What we have seen in the recent past, there has been a continuous attempt to weaken and to destabilize the Arab World, be it from the issue of the emigration that is already in the process which means that there will be an endangerment for the rights of the Palestinian people on their own lands and for their own territories as well. And at the same time, we have been watching closely Iraq being subjected to a very severe orchestrated propaganda, which inevitably would give certain signals for Israel and others to utilize this orchestration in a way that the possibility of a new threat to other Arab countries is still there. And definitely the needs for the Arab countries from such a meeting will give a new impulse of how to deal with the new world that we have been witnessing during the last few months.

[Najm] Has there been a decision on the time and venue of the summit?

[Al-Qasim] Well, I hope that the sooner the better. And hopefully, it will before the end of the month.

[Najm] And it is going to be held in Baghdad?

[Al-Qasim] Definitely, this is our position. [end recording]

Talks Held With Spanish Foreign Ministry Group

JN0905093790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 May 90 p 28

[Text] Amman—PETRA—A round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry last night between a Jordanian side headed by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi and a Spanish side headed by Spanish Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fernando Perpina Robert [name as published]. The two sides reviewed the distinguished relations between the two countries and ways of bolstering them in the political and economic areas.

Al-Bilbaysi outlined recent developments in the region, particularly the Soviet and East European Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the dangers this poses to Arab security and peace in the region. The two sides stressed the need to convene an international peace conference based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with the participation of all parties to the dispute, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry secretary general highly valued Jordan's role under His Majesty King Husayn in reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution in the region and also affirmed that Spain would continue its efforts through the EC to reach a just solution that would guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The two sides then reviewed the situation between Iraq and Iran and stressed the need to implement Security Council Resolution 598 and for permanent peace between the two countries.

They also reviewed the situation in Lebanon, emphasizing the need to support the Arab Tripartite Committee's efforts to restore security and peace to that country.

Expatriate Conscription Exemption To Be Debated

JN0905141890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 May 90 pp 1, 24

[Text] Amman—During its session yesterday, Tuesday, under Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the Council of Ministers approved an amendment to the military conscription law. The amendment dealt with a single article exempting Jordanian expatriates and their children abroad from compulsory military service in exchange for a cash payment to be determined by the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers' decision to amend the law was a response to Jordanian expatriates' demands, made during their conferences in Amman over the past years, that their children be exempted from military service for a cash payment to be determined by the government.

The amendment to the law will be submitted to the House of Representatives for discussion among the draft laws to be debated during its extraordinary session scheduled to begin later in May.

Al-Musawi Threatens Hostage 'Execution'

NC0905114090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1125 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has noted a halt in the process to find a settlement leading to the release of the Western hostages as a result of the U.S. Government's negative stance. He said: If it is confirmed that the Iranian hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been killed, the lives of the Western hostages will be endangered and the reprisal will be the execution of one of the hostages.

Jihad Links Hostage Issue, Israeli Prisoners

NC1005052090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0509 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The spokesman of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine declared last night that the organization will not embark on any initiative to release any hostage unless the United States pressures Israel to release the hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese who are held in Israeli prisons.

Nasirite Leader on Kidnapped Red Cross Employees

NC0905192190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 9 may 90

[Text] Engineer Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has said that the two kidnapped Swiss Red Cross employees are being detained for reasons other than those for which the other Western hostages in Lebanon are being held. He added that their problem is not related to that of the other hostages, but he he stressed that he is working to find ways to seek the two Swiss employees' release.

Iranian Envoy Meets Islamic Amal's Al-Musawi

NC0905183690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon met with Husayn al-Musawi, alias Abu-Hisham, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement and member of Hizballah Command Council in Lebanon. He also met with the movement's cadres, as well as with a number of prominent figures in the Ba'labakk area in al-Biqa' yesterday. The Iranian diplomat discussed Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

The Islamic figures in Lebanon praised the Islamic Republic's interest in Muslim causes and the Islamic Majlis' support for the Islamic intifadah in Palestine and said that this stance constitutes strong support for the Islamic movement in Palestine.

Regarding the hostages and the information media, the Iranian charge d'affaires said that the Islamic Republic was the first victim of these plots. The Islamic Republic has constantly condemned such acts, he said. Referring to the Iranian hostages detained in the jails of the Phalangist forces, he said that available information affirms that the Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in 1982 by the Phalangist militiamen are still alive. Those who deny that the hostages are there, he said, have as yet failed to give any evidence to support their claims.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Lebanese-Syrian Summit

Reportedly Rejects Baghdad Summit

NC0905194790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has declared that Lebanon will not attend the Arab summit if it is held in Baghdad. President al-Hirawi returned to Beirut this evening at the end of the Lebanese-Syrian summit in Damascus in which Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss participated.

The Lebanese and Syrian presidents held two rounds of talks that dealt with the situation in East Beirut, the security plan for West Beirut, and the extension of the legitimate government's authority over all Lebanese territory.

Presidential Office Denies Report

NC1005081490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] A responsible source at the presidential office has stated the following: REUTER has reported that President Ilyas al-Hirawi said during his visit to Damascus that he would not participate in the Arab summit if it is held in Baghdad, and that he favors the summit being held in another Arab country. The source strongly denied this report and confirmed that the Foreign Ministry's memorandum to the Arab League Secretariat is very clear.

Ja'ja' on Sea Blockade, Eastern Area Situation

NC0905184690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 May 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' by Voice of Lebanon radio correspondent Ilyas on 9 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ilyas] Doctor, God be with you.

[Ja'ja'] Welcome.

[Ilyas] We have several questions. First of all, the people say: We have been expecting a halt to the fighting on land, but now we have a sea war. Has it been decreed that society will be harrassed on land and at sea, and for how long will this take place?

[Ja'ja'] Well, Ilyas, with officials like General 'Awn around, we can expect anything. We can expect a war by land, a war by sea, a war from the air, and a war from underground. It is regrettable that at every phase that general comes up with an excuse. The general always has an excuse to resume the fighting one way or another.

Recently he came up with the sea issue and on that basis resumed the shelling. He thinks that he is exerting pressure on us as Lebanese Forces. I want to tell you and all our compatriots something: The general should not think that he is exerting pressure on us. He is exerting pressure only through his pressure on the citizens. However, we and the citizens will remain steadfast. We will not change our view or our line. We will continue to speak the truth and everything we believe in even if he continues shelling us for a decade. With regard to the sea, under no circumstances will we permit him to supply himself with arms and ammunition in order to continue the war. This is our stand, and we will continue to maintain it. [passage omitted]

[Ilyas] Can we regard you as optimistic to a certain extent?

[Ja'ja'] Despite what is taking place and despite all the hardships we are experiencing, I am not at all pessimistic. I am very hopeful about the future. The present situation cannot possibly last. Gen. 'Awn cannot last. In the end, he will have to remove himself one way or another.

[Ilyas] As you are aware, the patriarch calls on Dr. Ja'ja' and Gen. 'Awn to stop this war. What is your response to the patriarch's appeal?

[Ja'ja'] From the very first moment, we showed all readiness to halt this war. I still say that we are prepared to halt this war at any time. [passage omitted]

[Ilyas] Doctor, you have called on the legitimate authority to assume its responsibilities in the eastern area and I believe you have given it the opportunity to do so. The legitimate authority is still procrastinating for some reason we do not know. In your opinion, are there convincing reasons for this?

[Ja'ja'] Ilyas, in my opinion, there are many complications in the Lebanese crisis. There are internal and external factors involved. [passage omitted]

[Ilyas] Can we say that these complications originate from the eastern area or from the legitimate authority itself?

[Ja'ja'] In my view, the most serious complication now is in the eastern area. It is Gen. 'Awn's presence in B'abda Palace and in the Defense Ministry. In my opinion, if this problem is resolved, the other problems will become secondary and can be avoided and overcome so that the legitimate authority can return to all the Lebanese areas.

[Ilyas] Some are talking about solutions and proposals, including a proposal that Dr. Ja'ja' and Gen. 'Awn or their representatives be brought together in a single government. Is there anything of this sort? What is your stand on this?

[Ja'ja'] I go along with any solution that leads to ending the anomalous situation now existing in the eastern area and to establishing the legitimate authority in all Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Warn Against Attacks on Ships

NC0905200490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and Maronite Patriarch Sfayr have spoken on the telephone. As a result, the Lebanese Forces ceased fire at 1915, but 'Awn's gunmen continued to open fire at the coast and center of Kasrawan. At approximately 2100, 'Awn's gunmen intermittently shelled the area of al-Ashrafiyah.

The Fifth Branch of the General Staff of the Lebanese Forces has issued a statement in which it emphasized that the legitimate ports in the eastern area operated normally today. Passengers disembarked from a ship at Juniyah Port, and the ship left with its passengers for Cyprus at 1800.

The Lebanese Forces warned 'Awn's gunmen against attacking any ship or legitimate port because their response will be violent and harsh. The Lebanese Forces hoped 'Awn and his cliques have learned today's lesson.

National Resistance Men Attack Israeli Patrol

NC0905131190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] This morning, national resistance men detonated an explosive charge while an occupation forces patrol was driving along a road in a military zone in al-Naqurah. The explosion destroyed the vehicle and its crew members were killed or injured. A clash involving various types of weapons ensued between the resistance men and remaining members of the patrol. In the meantime, the occupation forces positions raked the hills and valleys surrounding the scene of the operation.

This morning fierce clashes occurred between Lahd militiamen and a national resistance group in Bayt Lif in the Bint Jubayl area. Various types of machine guns and rockets were used in the clash. Lahd sources, as usual, did not report any casualties in their ranks, but said a resistance member was detained after he was seriously injured.

Al-Asad Meets With Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD1005111590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] This morning Mr. Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister in charge of Arab and African countries, who is in Syria, met with Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian president, and delivered a message to him from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During this meeting, which was also attended by the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, issues of mutual interest, as well as regional and international developments, were discussed.

Al-Asad, Lebanese President Meet for Talks

JN0905140390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi began talks at the Presidential Palace at 1130 today. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Lebanese side, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss attended.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad led the reception of the Lebanese president at the western entrance to Damascus. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Makes Statement, Departs

JN0905182390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 9 May (SANA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss left Damascus at 1645 today. Heading those seeing President al-Hirawi off at Damascus' western gate was President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi made a statement to reporters prior to his departure from Damascus in which he said:

We asked to come for a working visit and were surprised to find on arrival that it was being treated as an official protocol visit. We thank brother President Hafiz al-Asad and his government.

As for the purpose of our visit, it included discussion of three topics. First, the Middle East crisis and visits that some Arab leaders have made to Syria. All this is for coordination between us and sisterly Syria on these matters.

Second, the Arab summit. I believe that when Lebanon responded to this call, its position was clear. The Syrian position was also identical to the position taken by the Lebanese Government.

Third, the continuing Lebanese crisis and what is now happening in the eastern sector. It is a humanitarian crisis with all the catastrophes that could possibly befall it. We agreed completely concerning the future. It is our destiny, in the hands of God, that we maintain this relationship, in which we firmly believe, with sisterly Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

President al-Hirawi was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs State Minister Wahib Fadil, mayor of the Damascus Governorate, and the chief of presidential protocol.

Al-Asad, Qatari Amir Discuss Immigration, Summit

JN1005063390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a telephone call from Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. They talked about the perils of Soviet Jewish immigration and the arrangements that may lead to the convening of a successful Arab summit. His highness the amir of Qatar pointed out the importance of clearing the Arab atmosphere in order to close Arab ranks and unify Arab positions at this sensitive stage, with a view to achieving pan-Arab goals.

The talks also dealt with bilateral relations and ways to bolster them and promote joint cooperation.

'Impromptu' Call No Basis for Successful Summit

JN0905173490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Effective Arab solidarity and collective Arab action constitute the cornerstone of a strong Arab position against the imminent dangers threatening the Arab nation's land and existence.

Expansionist Zionist aggression, in its many forms and methods, is the primary danger. Therefore, regional and international circumstances mandate an Arab summit to discuss many important issues and grave dangers in the confrontation with the nation's enemies, and to base Arab solidarity on the best foundations for uniting the Arabs. By doing so, Arab efforts and energies can be mobilized and the Arab nation can be protected from the malice of its enemies.

Syria's views and principles have always been based on the aforementioned premises; and they have not changed, because the map of confrontation with the enemies of the nation still shows the dangers that besiege us. This is also valid because, if the quest for Arab solidarity is not achieved, the nation's divisions will increase, its differences will accumulate, and the dangers threatening it will worsen. If the nation is to achieve its pan-Arab objective, however, certain elements for success must be present. These are to be found in thorough

preparations for the summit and intensive Arab consultations on the issues put forward for discussion by the Arab leaders, as well as the date and venue of this summit. These consultations must be conducted in a manner compatible with each participant's circumstances and which serves individual interests through serving the interests of the entire Arab nation. Based on the above, an impromptu call for holding the summit in a specified Arab place—which is not the usual way to call an Arab summit—means deciding in advance what is possible and what is not. Consequently, such a call does not provide a basis for a successful summit that would serve the interests of the nation and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of its masses.

In light of the above, the Syrian Arab Republic's aim behind its request for holding an emergency meeting of the Arab League foreign ministers is to discuss the date and venue of the emergency Arab summit, to agree on its agenda, and to prepare studies and recommendations before referring them to the summit. This request reaffirms that Syria, which is an ardent supporter of Arab solidarity and which has exerted and is still exerting every possible effort to achieve Arab solidarity and to lay solid and strong foundations for the kind of solidarity that will guarantee its strength and continuity, will never hesitate to resume these efforts and to work faithfully to create the appropriate atmosphere for making Arab actions succeed in achieving Arab solidarity. There is still room for consultations and discussions among all parties concerned. What is important, however, is what President al-Asad has stressed: Our motives should be sincere and pure. We want a summit to serve pan-Arab interests and aspirations and to serve our countries, not particular individuals. We want a summit that serves the masses and not individuals.

Syria regards the higher interests of the Arab nation as a consideration taking precedence over all others. Syria, therefore, has tried to achieve effective Arab solidarity. Moreover, and for the same reason, Syria wants the Arab summit to have every element of success so it will constitute a major step toward Arab solidarity and collective Arab action. These circumstances in particular demand the solidarity of the Arab nation so it can rise to the dangers facing it. This is Syria's view and position—a position which serves Arab interests and creates the appropriate atmosphere to assure solidarity and to take sound, practical steps to pool Arab efforts and capabilities against the threats and grave dangers threatening the nation's present and future.

AL-BA'TH Urges Good Preparations for Summit

JN1005063090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Need for the Summit Does Not Cancel Good Preparations for It", AL-BA'TH stresses in its editorial today that the intensive consultations held so far among Arab capitals on convening the Arab summit have proved that most Arab countries are convinced of the need to make good preparations to ensure the success of the summit. The paper adds: It is true that there exists a pressing need for an Arab summit, but it is also true that we should not necessarily accept any summit or endorse one that serves individuals rather than the pan-Arab cause. If those calling for the summit are really eager for the summit to serve higher Arab interests, then why do they insist on a certain venue for it?

The paper explains: We in Syria are in favor of a summit enjoying all elements of success, not a fabricated one that deepens fragmentation and differences. We support a summit where the hearts and minds of the Arabs are directed only toward the central Arab issue and away from positions of prejudice and one-upmanship. We want a summit remote from the policy of alignments and creation of secondary conflicts and personal demonstrations that only lead to antagonism and provocation, and waste Arab capabilities by diverting them from their primary goals.

AL-BA'TH concludes: To address these issues, Syria called the Arab League Council into an extraordinary session to prepare carefully for the summit. Syria is fully eager for a strong and successful Arab summit that can effectively and tangibly influence current and forthcoming events in order to restore Arab rights and safeguard Arab dignity. Syria has always proceeded from pure pan-Arab considerations in service of the higher Arab interests, not from narrow regional considerations, selfish calculations, or false personal interests.

Prime Minister Receives Soviet Power Minister

JN1005065390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Damascus—At 2000 yesterday, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Yuriy Semenov, Soviet minister of power and electrification and head of the Soviet side to the meetings of the permanent Syrian-Soviet joint committee for economic and technical cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Engineer Kamil al-Baba, minister of electricity; Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; and Aleksandr Zotov, USSR ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. al-Zu'bi welcomed Mr. Semenov and members of the Soviet delegation and emphasized the firm and developing relations between Syria and the USSR. These relations, he said, are based on firm friendship and close cooperation in all fields.

Semenov thanked the prime minister and underscored the strong and close ties and developing cooperation between the two friendly countries in all aspects. The talks dealt with the various cooperation agreements in the economic, commercial, and technical fields and their positive results as well as the projects being executed jointly between the two friendly countries.

Mr. al-Zu'bi was informed of the Soviet minister's talks in Damascus and he stressed the importance of these talks in bolstering and widening the scope of Syrian-Soviet cooperation in all fields.

Finance Minister on Plan To Attract Investment

PM1005102990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 90 p 11

[Report on interview with Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] Syrian Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini has revealed that his government is currently studying a new bill for investment designed to attract foreign capital to the country. He pointed out that Syria is ready to accept any economically feasible offers, even before the law is passed.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT conducted an interview with the Syrian minister before he departed New York for Washington to attend the World Bank committee meetings. It covered Syria's current efforts to improve economic and financial conditions in the country.

Al-Mahayini emphasized that after the 1989 deficit there is now a surplus in the Syrian budget. He pointed out that this has helped Syria pay off a large proportion of its debt to the Soviet Union, thanks to the financial control and spending restriction policy. [passage omitted]

On foreign investment, he said that it is currently focused on the oil sectors. He cited Law No. 10 of 1987, which exempts investment companies, whether joint sector or otherwise, from taxes until seven years after the first profitable year. [passage omitted]

On the oil and gas sector in Syria, Al-Mahayini said that the Syrian Government has adopted the service contract method, which has attracted numerous major companies, including U.S., Dutch, and other concerns. He added that Syria's oil production exceeds its needs and allows for export, and the production level is expected to increase by the end of the year.

Al-Mahayini said that Syria is now among the major states in the gas sector in terms of reserves. [passage omitted]

On Syrian debts Al-Mahayini said: "They are not huge and the debt service is not substantial. But this does not reduce the importance of what the Syrian Government is seeking to secure in order to improve living conditions in Syria." He added that the Syrian Government is focusing on using currency to secure production and industrial requirements. [passage omitted]

India

Gujral: Pakistan Still Supports Kashmir Terrorism

BK1005040890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, says the United States does not want to internationalize the Kashmir issue. In an interview to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in New Delhi, he said Washington does not support Pakistan's demand for holding a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir and is also opposed to its supporting subversive activities in the Kashmir Valley.

Referring to his talks with the Pakistani foreign minister in New York recently, Mr. Gujral regretted that Pakistan is not honoring the assurance that they would stop supporting terrorist activities in Kashmir.

Minister Scores U.S. for Invoking Super 301

BK1005094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] India has strongly deplored the U.S. attempts to continue action against New Delhi by invoking the Super 301 clause of their act. Making a statement in response to a calling attention motion moved by Mr. Sukomal Sen, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and others in the Rajya Sabha today, the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, declared that even though India has now been singled out for action by the United States, it will not relent in its stand. He said what America seeks is that India removes all control on private sector investment and change its insurance laws to allow access to foreign firms. The minister asserted that India cannot enter into bilateral negotiations to change its basic economic policies in areas which are in its sovereign decision-making. He categorically stated that India will not relent under any threat of retaliation.

Rajiv Gandhi Begins Sit-in, Urges Unity

BK1005040490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has begun a dawn-to-dusk dharna [sit-in] at Rajghat in Delhi this morning. According to Congress-I sources, the dharna is to observe the 133d anniversary of India's first war of independence in 1857 as also to arouse public opinion for safeguarding the unity and integrity of the country. A large number of senior Congress-I leaders and party workers have also joined Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

In Bombay, the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has gone on a token 12-hour mass fast at the august Kranti Maidan. The state Congress-I committee president, senior leaders and party workers are also fasting with him.

Four Killed in Kashmir Crossfire

BK0905160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, four persons were killed in cross-firing between the terrorists and the security forces in Magharmal Bagh and (Maisuma) localities of Srinagar today. Curfew relaxation was curtailed for two hours and the security forces launched an intensive search for subversives in these localities.

According to official reports life elsewhere in the Kashmir valley remained peaceful. In Srinagar and other towns, offices functioned normally with full attendance.

Two Terrorists, Nine Others Killed in Punjab

BK1005034090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons including two terrorists were killed in separate incidents since yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from the killed terrorists. Meanwhile, with the succumbing to injuries of one more person, the death toll in yesterday's bomb blast in two buses has gone up to three.

Iran

Claims Agreement Said Not Linked to Hostages

LD0905180190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Liaison Office of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the U.S.-Iran Claims Tribunal at The Hague has issued a statement announcing the following: Following discussions that have been held at The Hague over the last few months between the legal representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States, within the framework of the Algerian accord, two agreements will be submitted to the court for arbitration on the basis of Article 34 of the regulations of the Arbitration Tribunal.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, on the basis of the first agreement, the United States in return for receiving a sum of 45 million dollars, will return 2,784 claims. In addition to that, the U.S. Government will take responsibility for replying to another 400 similar cases made against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which existed outside the work of the Adjudication Court.

In the second agreement, in return for receiving 60 million dollars, the United States will return approximately 100 million dollars which is for the principal and the interest on 15 loans, which some Iranian Government organizations and institutions have brought to the Adjudication Court.

Regarding this, Mr. Nobrai, the Iranian liaison of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the

U.S.-Iran Claims Tribunal at The Hague, announced: This process has taken place within the normal framework of the discussions and is not connected to political or economic issues. Despite what the Western media have said, this process has nothing to do with the issue of the hostages.

Mohajerani Supports Direct Talks With U.S.

NC1005075090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Article by Iranian Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs Seyyed 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani: "Direct Talks"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stated last Sunday [22 April] that the United States is ready to hold direct talks with the Iranian leadership. You may say that this statement could indicate that a plot is being hatched, or why else would Baker have proposed direct talks; or that regardless of what words are spoken and what stands taken, these remarks should be rejected and a plot found in each and every word merely because of who said them.

I think that the direct talks can be viewed from another angle so that a better, or at least a less troublesome, alternative is found between direct and indirect talks. Our premises are as follows:

1. We have accepted Resolution 598. The implementation of this resolution is continuing under the direction of the UN secretary general and under the practical supervision of the Security Council, of which the United States is a permanent and also the most influential member.

2. Since the victory of the revolution, there have been numerous and various problems between us and the United States, such as the freezing of Iranian assets, the blocking of the dispatch of spare parts purchased for military use, and so on.

3. Four of our citizens and a considerable number of oppressed Lebanese Muslims, foremost among whom is Shaykh 'Ubayd, have been taken hostage by pro-U.S. and pro-Israeli groups.

4. Iraq, our potential and actual enemy, has striven to strengthen itself militarily and politically more and more each day by seizing opportunities created by international developments to advance its international relations and diplomacy.

5. Finally, it is our most important and immediate duty to reconstruct the country's industry and economy and repair the immense damage caused by the war.

These are the premises. Negotiations have taken place throughout history and have not needed any reason or justification.

Direct talks between the divine prophets and the enemies of God and the people were the tradition of the Prophet of Islam and the other immaculate imams and the policy of the world's independent revolutionaries and statesmen. Finally, the theory and view that negotiations do not mean the acceptance of domination and submission should be taken into consideration, especially since we have not sought to build a high wall around our country and people or live in a world that negates relations. The story of the hostages is instructive because the friendly and fraternal Government of Syria did not refrain from negotiating directly with the United States. It thus emerged as a media star in the release of the hostages to advance its national interests, while the extent and quality of Iran's role in this regard, in the words of the U.S. President, went unseen!

I think that under the existing special conditions, if we fail to give preference to the interests of the country and the revolution, we will be missing opportunities for a revolution, a country, and a nation whose enemies want to deprive it of such opportunities. Years will pass and we will find ourselves in the same situation of stagnation, playing with slogans while we are frozen in place.

Majles Praises Khamene'i's Rejection of U.S. Ties

Bravery Cited

NC0905110890 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 9 (AFP)—The Iranian parliament Wednesday renewed its allegiance to spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and described his refusal to negotiate with Washington as a "brave" stance.

"Our enemy has been slapped by our guide and the signs of the blow can been seen across his face," the MP's [members of parliament] said in an open letter read at a meeting of the Majles, or parliament.

Mr. Khamene'i last week charged that those in Iran advocating any negotiations whatsoever with Washington were either "simple-minded or scared."

Iranian MP's interpreted Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks as a "new breath for pure Islamic thought" and said his stance should be seen as a clear warning to "liberals, capitalists, partisans of American Islam and corrupt people."

"Once again we give you our full support for your brave stance in confronting enemies of the revolution," the MP's said in their letter to the spiritual guide. [passage omitted]

Supports Call To Confront U.S.

LD0905172290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Majles deputies this morning sent a letter to His Eminence Ayatollah

Khamene'i the leader of the Islamic revolution, supporting his clear and decisive stand about the necessity to confront the United States.

The Islamic consultative Majles deputies' letter reads in part: We the Islamic Consultative Majles representatives, while supporting the brave stand taken by the honorable leader against the enemies of the Islamic revolution spearheaded by the United States anounce that we are fully supporting your excellency in order to strengthen the Islamic revolution and the thoughts and the line of our demised imam.

Continues Discussion of Palestine Bill

LD0905120690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Discussion of the bill with double urgency on supporting the Islamic revolution of Palestine continued in this morning's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly which was chaired by Mr. Karrubi and with the participation of members of the Guardians Council. The remain articles of the bill were approved by the deputies. Our correspondent has sent us a report on this:

[Correspondent] According to Article 4 of the bill, the ministries of culture and higher education, and health, treatment, and medical education are duty bound to provide a quota each year for Palestinian applicants to study in this country's universities.

According to Article 5, in order to provide the necessary coordination to implement the above, a committee will be formed of representatives with full powers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and guidance,, the Ministry of Intelligence, the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Foundations, the Disabled [Janbazan] Foundation, the Red Crescent, the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and two Majles deputies chosen by the Majles. The committee will function under the chairmanship of the president or his appointed representative. Every six months this committee will report the acativities of that period to the Majles. According to Article 6, the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance and the Voice and Vision of Iran are duty bound to give priority in their foreign activities to propaganda support for the Islamic Palestinian revolution.

According to Article 7, in view of historical records, the Majles and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran recognize Jerusalem as the official homeland and capital of the Islamic Palestinian government in exile and they call on all Islamic countries to recognize that city as the capital of the Palestinian government in exile.

According to Article 8, the establishment of any kind of economic, commercial, or cultural relations with companies, institutions, or companies affiliated to the Zionist throughout the world is forbidden. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is duty bound to provide within a year, as far as possible, a complete list of Zionist companies, organizations, and corporations throughout the world and to submit it to the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Cabinet. [passage omitted]

Majles Deputy Deplores Inaction on Detainees

LD0905134490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 9 May 90

[From "The Majles and the People" program]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] [Passage omitted] In yesterday's open session of the Majles, as usual, a number of deputies delivered pre-agenda speeches. Hamidod-Din Mollazehi, the deputy from Iranshahr, referred to the release of Western hostages and the West's inappropriate response to these humanitarian steps, and said:

[Begin Mollazehi recording] The Islamic Government of Iran, on the basis of its Islamic principles, made great efforts to achieve the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon—who were, in fact, mercenary spies of the enemy on the Islamic soil of Lebanon—despite the fact that many Muslims remain captive of the agents of arrogance in occupied Palestine and its Phalangist servants in Lebanon. As a result of Iran's serious support the release of two of the spies was achieved through the cooperation of Lebanese Muslims.

Unfortunately, as a result of the evil nature of the arrogant system in the United States and the futile obstinacy of the regime occupying beloved Palestine, no report has been received about the release of the Muslim detainees. Where are the so-called human rights organizations and the boastful humanitarians now? The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should make a comprehensive effort to clarify this matter for all the liberated people of the world and expose the hostile nature of the arrogant U.S. system and its evil agents. [end recording]

Another pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Bakhsh-'Ali Rahimnezhad, the deputy from Baku [as heard], who said at the beginning of his remarks:

[Begin Rahimnezhad recording] Inflation and high prices have made life impossible for the working and deprived classes of society and making a living has been made very difficult for the third class [as heard] of people, especially those who have a number of children. The weaker levels of society are crying out because of inflation. All are hoping that the esteemed government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani may think of a solution, and by fixing prices, may fight against economic terrorists and arrogant people. The people will certainly support such measures. The same volunteers [basijis] who fought against the aggressors during eight years of war, are prepared to confront the profiteers and the rich throught the fixing of the prices. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Paper Links Jerusalem Resolution, Hostage Release

NC1005105190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 11

[Unattributed "political commentary": "The Hostages' Release and Washington's Apprehensions"]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a resolution considering Jerusalem the capital of the Zionist regime.

The approval of this resolution, which follows the endorsement of a similar resolution in the U.S. Senate, comes at a time when it was expected that steps were being taken to resolve the issue of the hostages and this unpleasant phenomenon which had been created by the enemies of Islam was on the verge of disappearing. However, the malicious act and jeering attitude of the U.S. House of Representatives not only complicated the situation, but also blocked avenues for resolving the problem.

The approval of this resolution at this time was not a coincidence, but instead an indication that the United States is not very happy about the termination of the hostage issue and wants the door to hostage-taking to remain open. This is because it is holding thousands of Muslims—the oppressed and tyrannized people of Lebanon and Palestine—hostage, while these Muslims have only a few hostages in their custody.

The White House and U.S. officials have unceasingly condemned hostage-taking, but there seems to be no responsible authority anywhere which can question this enemy of humanity as to why it takes hostages and then embarks on false propaganda and claims to oppose hostage-taking.

The reason is that the White House is attempting to divert public opinion, especially in the United States, with such propagandistic tactics so that the people do not become infuriated with its inhuman policies. This also has domestic benefits. U.S. officials do not care a bit for the people of the United States, not even for the lives of the American hostages. Were this not the case, the House of Representatives would have at least waited a few days until after the hostages were released before proposing the provocative resolution.

It is clear that approval of the resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel would have been condemned regardless of when it was approved. Approval at this juncture, however, makes it twice as condemnable. [passage omitted]

There is the strong possibility that those holding the American hostages will delay their release. Thus, the world will be able to see that the Americans are greatly apprehensive of the release of hostages. They are afraid that the released hostages will reveal facts which will refute all their false propaganda and expose the repulsive and antihuman face of the inmates of the White House and humiliate their illegitimate progeny; that is, the Zionists and the Phalangists.

However, the Muslim nations, especially the Muslims of the Lebanon and occupied Palestine, should know and do know that the arch-Satan is the foremost enemy of Islam and humanity and does not believe in abiding by any norms whatsoever. The war between Islam and arrogance will never subside as arrogance has never recognized any limits or boundaries and will never do so. Experience has shown that it will never suppress its urge for aggression and that the only path for combating it is the vigilance and readiness of Muslim nations and complete faith in the boundless power of the Almighty in this eternal battle. [passage omitted]

Correction to Majles Speaker Karrubi Discusses

LD0905185690

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Majles Speaker Karrubi Discusses U.S. Ties," published in the 8 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 38: Column one, paragraph two, sentence two, make read: ...a sense of revulsion and hatred arose.... (correcting typoed word "revulsion")

Besharati Notes Willingness To Talk With Iraq

LD1005114790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Mr. Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, said: Iran is ready to have direct talks with Iraq under supervision of the United Nations Organization on condition that the issue for discussion are specified before the talks.

Announcing the news, Radio Qatar added: Mr. Besharati, in remarks published in Qatar's (AL-SHARQ) newspaper, also announced that the exchange of POW's between the two countries depends on the implementation of the articles of Security Council Resolution 598, and particularly of Article 2 on the withdrawal of both sides' forces from the occupied territories.

In his remarks, in which he condemned any kind of action or movement by the Zionist regime against any Arab country, Mr. Besharati also said: The West's intention in its propaganda attacks against Iraq is to draw attention away from the emigration of Soviet and East European Jews to occupied Palestine. He added that the aim of his visit to a number of countries in the region is to exchange views on issues of common interest and on issues concerning the Persian Gulf. Mr. Besharati said: Iran makes efforts toward establishing mutual agreements among the countries of the region in order to stop foreign countries intervention there.

PRC's Wan Li Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0905120290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. Wan Li, chief of the People's Republic of China's National Congress Standing Committee, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting Mr. Wan Li conveyed the warm and friendly greetings of Chinese leaders, while stressing the necessity for maintaining the process of expanding bilateral relations. Further, he sought greater expansion of friendly relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. He also expressed support for the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to steps taken by the UN secretary general toward the full implementation of Resolution 598, while expressing the Chinese Government's desire for the establishment of lasting peace in the region.

In another part of his speech, he condemned the hegemonist intervention of global imperialism, headed by America, in the internal affairs of his country on the pretext of violation of human rights in China. He said: From the viewpoint of America and the West, there are two standards as far as human rights are concerned. They give themselves the right to launch a military expedition into Panama and kill people there, whereas they accuse the Chinese Government of violating human rights, because of its measures aimed at calming internal unrest.

Mr. Wan Li then pointed out that the PRC's foreign policy at present follows the principle of self-reliance and independence. He added: We firmly oppose any kind of hegemonist policy, while trying to strengthen our ties with Third World countries.

After Mr. Wan Li had spoken, Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the delegation and expressed his thanks for the warm and friendly messages of Chinese leaders, while declaring his satisfaction at the formation of an Iran-China parliamentary friendship group. He added: I am still impressed by the positive points of my trip to China, and China is one of the few countries of the world who can be a good friend to those Third World countries who are keen on independence. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and I, during our trips to China, reached the conclusion that our choice of establishing relations with your country was a correct choice, and we hope that such relations may further expand according to both countries' abilities.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: Recent issues in your country show America's greed about the vast country of China. At one particular juncture we were concerned about deviation's in China's global policy, and that was when Americans and Westerners found their way into China, and hoped for changes there. Of course it seems now that such a danger has subsided. The president then pointed to cooperation among anti-imperialist countries as one of the ways for confrontation against imperialist expansionism. He added: We believe that Iran and China can display an example of such cooperation. He then pointed to the Iran and Iraq issue as one the important regional problems, adding: As we have shown, we are seriously intent on establishing lasting peace in the region, however, we are not yet sure about the other side's good intentions, although some signs of their willingness have been observed.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed his concern about new moves that have come about in line with Israel's expansionist intentions in the region. He said: It seems that due to the easing of tension between the Eastern and Western blocs, the greedy intention has emerged in the West that they can now lend greater support to Israel. Therefore, the regional countries should act to ensure that Israel may not find any expansionist opportunity. We also expect you to be active in that field. He then reminded: The Westerners are seriously concerned about the Islamic movement in our region. They consider us as the cause of such movements, and we proudly accept that. In any case, it is also worth noting attention that we should utilize the profound current of inclination toward Islam in the region against the aggression of imperialism.

According to the same report, at the end of that meeting, our country's president asked the visiting delegation to convey his warm greetings to the government and nation of China.

Ends Visit; Karrubi Comments

LD0905191190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Mr. Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, left Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by Mr. Karrubi, the Majles Speaker. Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Wan Li talked with our reporter. He described his visit to Iran as positive and expressed his pleasure with his separate meetings with the president, the Majles speaker and the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During his visit he witnessed the friendly sentiments of the Iranian nation toward the Chinese nation, he stressed and added: I am confident that after this visit friendly cooperation between the PRC congress and the Islamic Consultative Assembly and cooperation between the two countries in various fields will be strengthened more than ever before.

Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, also talked with our colleague about the outcome of Mr. Wan Li's visit and said:

[Begin Karrubi recording] Our relations with the PRC and the vast country of China are very sincere and friendly. We have relations in all fields, in political issues, in economic issues, and in our cultural past. We have common views regarding international issues. We

have no difficulty and no problem in this respect. Our discussions revolved around the Resolution [598], bilateral relations, and the issue of Palestine. We also discussed domestic issues in the two countries, bilateral relations, as well as international affairs.

Among other discussions which we had and among other blessings of this visit was the issue of greater contact between the two legislatures. Apart from the fact that friendship groups have been formed, a proposal was also made by some friends and by myself to organize a [friendship] week. The generalities of this have been agreed and, God willing, in future officials from both sides will sit together and decide the program to be held during that friendship week. The details will be decided later.

In brief, this visit and such trips have certainly been useful and helpful toward deepening, expanding and strengthening relations. We expect that such comings and goings will continue because they are useful for both countries; especially contacts between the two legislatures—the Congress and the Islamic Consultative Assembly. We are sure that due to the position enjoyed by the two legislatures they will be able to be very useful in strengthening relations between the two governments. [end recording]

Minister Notes Increases in Domestic Production

LD0905172190 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 9 May 90

["Significant Rise in Domestic Production"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—The industries minister said on Wednesday [9 May] that domestic production of certain goods increased by six to 100 percent in 1368 (March 1989-March 1990) as compared with the previous year.

Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh added that production of all kinds of synthetic fibres rose by 50 to 100 percent, vegetable oil by 83, tyres by 46, woollen fabrics by 53, cotton textiles by 43, glass by 32, tiles by 14 and cement by six percent.

Despite existing problems, the production of air coolers since March has tripled and that of other electrical appliances has doubled in comparison with the same period last year, he said.

The minister said that 30 billion cigarettes are expected to be smoked this year of which 14 billion would be imported.

He said that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has placed emphasis on increasing domestic production and that grounds have been prepared for all production units to meet their needs for foreign exchange at competitive rate.

Cabinet Approves Bills, Governor's Appointment

LD0905193190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 Gmt 9 May 90

[Text] The cabinet met this afternoon with the first vice president, Mr. Habibi, in the chair. At the meeting the most important domestic and foreign events were reviewed. The bill on separation of the functions of the Ministry of Construction Jihad from that of the Ministry of Agriculture was debated, and then approved. It is now ready for submission to the Majles.

At the said meeting the minister of the interior submitted a proposal to appoint Engineer Eslamian as the governor general of the Province of Chahar-Mahal va Bakhtiyari. The cabinet approved his appointment, and expressed appreciation for the services of the outgoing governor general of the province.

Also at the session of the cabinet this afternoon, proposals by various government offices, already surveyed in the relative committees, were debated, and a number of them were approved.

Nepal & Bhutan

Professors Strike Against Royal Appointees

BK1005100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 10 (AFP)—University teachers at more than 25 campuses around the Nepalese capital struck Thursday [10 May], as seven of their colleagues began a relay hunger strike to press for the resignation of vice chancellors appointed by the king. The hunger strikers, who kicked off their protest at 1 p.m. (0745 GMT), were also pressing for the dismissal or resignation of university rectors and registrars who have in the past been appointed by King Birendra.

"We are not asking for the resignation of King Birendra as chancellor of the universities," said Ram Man Shrestha, a science teacher and former head of the Nepal University Teachers' Union central coordination committee. As he spoke in the grounds of the two-storey teachers' union building in downtown Kathmandu, the strikers began their protest under a simple blue banner reading "Nepal University Teachers on Strike." The banner was surrounded by freshly painted-out slogans—reminders of the just-won battle for King Birendra to lift a 30-year ban on political parties, in which university students and lecturers were at the forefront.

Observers and university sources here said the strike, which could spread throughout the Himalayan country, had received a tacit nod from the interim coalition government led by Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. The new government has been helpless to meet the teachers' demands because many executive powers remain in the hands of the king.

"The government realizes that these men (the royal appointees in the universities) should go, but they still do not have the power to remove them," one source close to the new government said. "This has been one of the main problems in the transition, the slow, seeming reluctant actual devolution of power, in this case of civil servants."

In the past, and most recently in the first week of March when the pro-democracy movement was at its height, university teachers who spoke publicly in favor of political parties or against the broad powers of the king were subject to harsh prison terms.

Mr. Shrestha said the teachers had further demands to press, but added that the three most immediate were "the resignations of the vice chancellors, the rectors and the registrars."

Meanwhile the union building was rife with rumours that the action, well advertised Wednesday [9 May] in the recently liberalised press, was already having an effect. Teachers flocked around people bearing news that one or another rector at a campus belonging to the capital's two main universities, Trivbhuvan and Mahendra Sanskrit Universities, had stepped down.

The strike affected some 35,000 students in the Kathmandu valley area.

Pakistan

Paper Says Troops 'Eyeball to Eyeball' on Border

BK0905122990 Lahore THE NATION in English 9 May 90 pp 1, 4

[By Saqlain Imam]

[Text] Lahore—With its strike corps still on the prowl in the Suratgarh sector, India has brought up its troops to within Pakistan right from Shakargarh to Cholistan, and can now attack Pakistan at 72 hours' notice.

This deployment along the international border appears to have been ordered immediately after the Yaqub-Gujral talks in New York, with the Indians having occupied their trenches within the last 10 days, carrying live ammunition. Technically, their deployment is defensive, but this is in accordance with the military principle of defending those areas where one is not attacking.

The Indian strike corps in Suratgarh has not returned from winter training to its peacetime location, though summer collective training has now started. This corps, which is composed of an armoured division and a mechanised infantry division, is being supported by the two other corps of the Western Command.

Its likely target: the Guddu Barrage, only 55 miles from the international border. If Indian forces can reach the Indus here and manage a crossing, in itself an enormous task, only about 30 miles separate them from the foothills of the Takht-i-Suleiman Range effectively cutting the country in half.

In the meanwhile, diversionary attacks can be expected at other points along the border, designed more to keep Pakistani troops committed to a defensive role than to make actual breakthroughs.

It has also been learnt that specifically for the Lahore sector the Indians have concentrated the equivalent of an armoured brigade, already deployed in the area, closer to the border. There are unconfirmed reports that Indian artillery has already zeroed in on civilian targets in the heart of the city, such barrages intended to spread confusion and panic.

However, it is not easy to see why India would want to 'jump the gun'. It seemed logical that India would wait for the melting of the snows in Kashmir towards the end of May to see if it could contain the uprising, which is the sole political reason for going to war. Another consideration would be to generate a casus belli. At present, India has not had enough time to manufacture an excuse to attack which would wash with international opinion.

On the other hand, it is possible that India views the Yaqub-Gujral talks as a failure, and its evaluation of the Kashmiri situation is pessimistic in the extreme. If India already feels that the Indian Army cannot hold out in Kashmir against the freedom-fighters in summer, a preemptive strike is certainly on the cards.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has quietly taken appropriate countermeasures, and has chosen to conduct summer collective training for the Army in second line of defence, thus reproducing the deployment pattern of the winter of 1986-87. There is every sign of thorough preparedness while carrying on normal routine.

When contacted, an armed forces spokesman said that all movements and deployments were routine and connected with normal summer collective training. Also, it has been no cancelling of leaves or shortening of courses.

Also, if the military felt the situation was not under control it is hardly likely that corps and divisional commanders would have assembled in Islamabad for the six-day Formation Commanders' Conference and Army Selection Board.

Along the Line of Control in Kashmir, troops remained locked in the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation that has prevailed for the last 42 years. No further change is possible here short of actual war.

Though India has made its military preparations, and now needs only a final political decision to launch its fourth aggression against Pakistan, war is by no means certain. Even though there is a political reason where there was none in 1986-87, that experience alone is proof that a return from the brink is always possible. All that is necessary is that India retains its senses, and not take a useless military revenge from Pakistan for its moral defeat in Kashmir.

Official Condemns India for Kashmir Atrocities

BK0905155590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Ahmed Sayeed Awan, minister of state for information and broadcasting, has strongly condemned India for its atrocities perpetrated against the people, especially women and children, in occupied Kashmir. Addressing public meetings at various localities in Mazaffarabad District today, he expressed the hope that the struggle launched by the Kashmiris for the liberation of their country will definitely succeed.

On the forthcoming elections in Azad Kashmir, he said these elections will bring forward far reaching effects in the struggle of the Kashmiris for realizing the right of their self-determination.

Afghani Report of Intelligence Document Denied

BK1005093490 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 May 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—A spokesman of the Ministry of Defence has contradicted the news report published in a section of the Press on March 9 [date as published], according to which the KABUL TIMES had published a photostat of the document purported to have been prepared by the ex-chief of ISI [Interservices Intelligence] in order to form a confederation with Afghanistan.

The document is totally fabricated and the news report had nothing to do with the facts, the spokesman added.

Five Killed, Four Injured in Karachi Fighting

BK0905154190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Five persons were killed and four injured in the firing between two groups of people in Malir Extension and Model Colony areas in Karachi between late last night and early this morning. According to the sources of administration, the dead include a women who was caught in the firing. Paramilitary forces and police have undertaken massive patrolling, and the situation is under control. Some persons involved in the firing have been arrested.

Meanwhile, there was a blast in Baldia town in which a woman was killed.

Iranian Economic Minister Arrives for Talks

LD0905201590 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 9, IRNA—Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh arived here today to represent the Islamic Republic at the 5th Tehran-Islamabad joint economic commission scheduled for Thursday.

On Tuesday Iran's deputy minister of economy and finance Mehdi Nawab reviewed with Pakistani Deputy Minister of Finance Atab Ahmad Khan and other Pakistani delegates, prospects for broadening mutual trade and cultural and technological exchanges as a prelude to the fifth joint economic commission between the two neighbours.

Iran and Pakistan are to sign a letter of understanding here Saturday [12 May]. Included in the agenda for debate are reduced bilateral tafiffs for their respective shipping lines, improved customs facilities as well as higher technological and cultural exchanges.

PRC Reportage on Pakistan People's Party Visit

WA1005122290

For PRC coverage on the visit of the Pakistan People's Party delegation led by Begum Nusrat Bhutto to Beijing, see the International Affairs section of the 7 May and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.